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Academic programs at departments of library & information in Saudi universities

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Academic Year 1429/1430 A

Thesis Abstract

Evaluation of Academic programs at departments of libraries & Information in Saudi universities & how they meet requirements of work market

This thesis discusses evaluation of academic programs at departments of libraries and information in Saudi universities and, how they meet work market requirements.

The researcher aims to identify how current academic programs, at departments of libraries & information, cope with modern developments. This can be achieved through:

- analysis and evaluation of lecturing plans.
- Identify working opportunities, for library and information graduates, in both public and private sectors as per the opinion of hiring sectors' personnel.
- Determine specialized skills and competences required for libraries and information graduates.

Moreover, thesis aims to:

- Identify how hiring sector personnel are satisfied with graduates.
- Identify constraints limiting employment, of libraries and information graduates, in Saudi work market.
- Finally, this study aims to identify to which extend these academic programs, at departments of libraries and information, meet with Saudi work market needs & requirements.

To achieve the aforementioned aims however, a descriptive approach was used (Analysis of content). The researcher analyzed academic programs plans at the departments of libraries and information. The researcher also utilized a descriptive approach (survey) to achieve the other part of study relevant to how such programs satisfy Saudi work market. This approach is deemed suitable as to the nature of this study concerned with enquiring opinions and identifying trends.

Information has been gathered through a questionnaire distributed among the population of study (89 IT establishment). Recovered number of questionnaire forms are (51) at a percentage of (57%) which are all good for analysis.

The researcher carried out symbolization and entered information in computer to carry out suitable statistical analysis that answer the thesis questions.

The thesis was concluded with several results such as:

- There are variances in the nomination of libraries' and information departments.
- The most prominent opportunity for graduates is working at libraries. The job title available at IT institutions is library specialist.
- The most important specialized skills and competencies can be represented in provision of proper IT information to beneficiaries. Graduates are also required to be good in search and retrieval skills. These skills are of equal percentage in population replies. The most prominent personal skills are shown in perfection of PCs operation and proficiency in English language.
- The most important constraints facing hiring of graduates at the departments of libraries and information are represented in lack of coordination between work market requirements and academic programs. Most participants however, feel satisfied with skills and personal competences acquired by graduates.

Finally, this study is concluded with several recommendations which could be considered to enhance current status of academic programs at departments of libraries and make them more fit to requirements.