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Research excellence in library & information science in Brazil

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The study presents reflections on research conducted at the University of Sao Paulo on librarian training, expertise, and continuing education needs in Brazil. Methodology: A survey was conducted to a stratified sample of 18,374 practicing librarians nationwide, receiving 3,320 responses. Results: 81% of librarians rate their LIS education as good or great, but only 46% feel fully prepared for the job market. 50% say their training prepared them "on average" for the market. 89% recognize need for continuing education and updating skills. Desired continuing education includes technology skills plus management, culture, and other areas. University libraries employ the most librarians in Brazil due to accreditation requirements. Public and school libraries need the most competent professionals but have fewest jobs. Training focuses on stable university library routines rather than emerging sectors. Rapid technological and social changes make continuous learning imperative for librarians. Conclusions: While LIS education is good, librarians need ongoing updating of skills. Programs should balance technical expertise with generalist qualifications. Holistic training is needed in management, culture, and systems thinking. Specializations should align training with specific market sectors. Librarian training must adapt to produce professionals who can change the market. Recommendations: Increase continuing education opportunities. Make LIS a graduate-level degree built on an undergraduate foundation. Develop specialized curriculum tracks aligned to job market needs. Modernize programs to produce librarians who embrace technology. Expand curricula to develop well-rounded qualifications beyond technical skills.

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