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Assessing the Awareness Level of Library and Information Science Students of Allameh Tabataba'i University about Scientific Communication

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Abstract

Purpose: The present study assesses the level of awareness of library and information science students of Allameh Tabatabai University about scientific communication.

Method: The study was conducted using a survey-descriptive method. The research community consisted of 75 postgraduate library and information science students studying at Allameh Tabatabai University. The research tool was a researcher-designed questionnaire.

Results: Data analysis showed that in general, students were moderately familiar with examples of formal and informal scientific communication. Also, they were aware of individual and environmental factors affecting such communication. The highest level of awareness of library and information science students about individual factors affecting scientific communication related to the method of establishing personal communication, adherence to ethical principles in communication, the existence of cultural differences among people and scientific communities inside and outside the country, and the appearance and openness of the country. In addition, students used these tools in different ways while familiarizing themselves with various channels and tools for scientific communication. They were most aware of scientific communication tools and channels related to face-to-face communication, mobile phones, Telegram, and WhatsApp.

Conclusion: Postgraduate library and information science students at Allameh Tabatabai University were aware of scientific communication. However, due to the nature of the field, postgraduate students should try to create a rich scientific relationship with researchers and prominent people in various scientific fields while becoming more familiar with the concept of scientific communication

Keywords: ***Scientific Communication, Formal Scientific Communication, Informal Scientific Communication, Postgraduate Students***

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Extended Abstract

Purpose: Scientific communication has been considered as an inseparable part of the global communication process in the world today. It is considered as a subset of social communication, and any kind of exchange of information and thoughts among scientists in order to do their scientific jobs. Therefore, scientific communication plays an important role in the development of science. Scientific communication among students, especially postgraduate students, is very important and therefore their awareness of scientific communication methods is important.

The present study was conducted with the aim of Assessing the level of awareness of Library and Information Sciences students of Allameh Tabatabai University about scientific communication. Many experts consider the division of scientific communications into two general formal and informal categories. This category has been accepted by most experts. Both categories were studied.

Method: The present Study was conducted with a survey-descriptive method. In this study, the research community consisted of 70 postgraduate Library and Information Sciences students studying at Allameh Tabatabai University. The research tool was a researcher-made questionnaire that included seven components and 77 items.

The questionnaire was set up in two parts: the first part was related to demographic information including the sex and age of the participants.

The second part consists of seven components: familiarity with the concept of formal scientific communication (14 items), familiarity with the concept of informal scientific communication (nine items), familiarity with individual factors affecting scientific communication (12 items), familiarity with environmental factors affecting scientific communication (seven items), familiarity with channels and tools for establishing scientific communications (13 items), the amount of using channels and tools for scientific communication (13 items) familiarity with credit indicators in scientific communication (9 items). The scoring method is 5 options according to Likert spectrum (1 very low, 2 low, 3 medium, 4 high and 5 very high).

The validity of this questionnaire was determined by the opinion of experts, and its reliability was calculated based on Cronbach's alpha calculation of 0.963. After collecting the data, the data was analyzed using SPSS software version 25 and using descriptive statistics, frequency percentage, mean and standard deviation.

Results: The results of data analysis showed that in general, students were moderately familiar with examples of formal and informal scientific communication. Regarding the examples of official scientific communication, the highest level of awareness was related to referring to the archives of organizations and centers and specialized websites in the desired field, using internal scientific databases and using open access resources through the Internet, and the lowest level of awareness was related to examples were the use of foreign specialized magazines, the use of foreign specialized books, and the use of organizational repositories - university repositories. Regarding the examples of informal scientific communication, the lowest level of awareness of the students was related to the use of pre-publication databases, and they had an average level of awareness about other examples of informal scientific communication. Also, they were aware of individual and environmental factors affecting scientific communication. The highest level of awareness of Library and Information Sciences students about individual factors affecting scientific communication related to the way of establishing personal communication, adherence to ethical principles in communication, the existence of cultural differences in people and scientific communities inside and outside the country, and the appearance and openness of the country. And it was appropriate. Also, regarding the effective environmental factors, they were moderately familiar with all the factors mentioned in the research. In addition, students used these tools in different ways while getting familiar with various channels and tools for scientific communication. They were most aware of scientific communication tools and channels related to face-to-face communication, mobile phone, Telegram, and

WhatsApp, and they used these tools and channels the most for scientific communication with others. Finally, they knew and were aware of credibility indicators in scientific communication, so that they had an average and increasing level of awareness regarding all matters related to credibility indicators in scientific communication.

Conclusion: Based on the obtained results, postgraduate Library and Information Sciences students at Allameh Tabatabai University were aware of scientific communication. However, due to the nature of the field, postgraduate students should try to create a rich scientific relationship with researchers and famous people in various scientific fields while getting more familiar with the concept of scientific communication.

According to the results, it was found that the level of knowledge of respondents with validity indicators in scientific communication was also moderate. In researches related to scientific communications, the problem of validation and awareness of people about credit indicators in scientific communication has not been paid attention.

It should be noted that, just as the information of a journal is paid great attention when publishing the results of scientific researches, choosing a colleague, counselor and individual who can assist the student in research processes and create a strong and effective scientific relationship is also of particular importance. Students should be careful when identifying a person to make a scientific connection to his or her reputation, his proficiency and expertise in a particular field of research.

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