Survey on further education for medical librarians
summary & reflections

Based on the work by Rudolf Mumenthaler, Gerhard Bissels and Ekaterina Vardanyan
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Background

• funding: Swiss Academy for Medical Science
• participants were invited in international mailing lists
• survey was open in November-December 2016
• is there a need for postgraduate program in medical librarianship
• if so, what topics should be covered, in which format and to what price
Participants

- 499 respondents from 38 countries (22% UK; 14% US, 9% Switzerland, 8% Australia, ... 1% Finland)
Skills included in the survey

- three group of skills included: generic, LIS and EBM-related
- each group contained large set of individual skills
- “soft skills” were not included in survey
- scale: very important... not important at all

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<th>EBM-related skills</th>
<th>LIS skills</th>
<th>Generic skills</th>
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Topics for further education
Scope and format

- Master's degree
- Smaller modules
- Specific topics with/without diploma
- Specific topics without diploma
- Standardized modules without certificate

Percent %
Course delivery format

Number of respondents: 499

- Standard module (10 weeks): 50 respondents
- Standard module online: 200 respondents
- Intensive class: 120 respondents
- Immersion class: 50 respondents
- Other: 19 respondents
Readiness to pay for a MAS (60 ECTS)

Master of advanced studies MAS: postgraduate degree program for working professionals

- 50% less than 1000 €
- 16% 1001-2500 €
- 12% 2501-5000 €
- 2% 5001-10'000 €
- 1% more than 10'000 €
- 19% no answer
Suggestions and remarks

• “The absence of a health background is not necessarily a barrier to excellence in this field of specialization. My arts background has been extremely useful. I have been able to learn the specialized skills and knowledge on the job and through CE opportunities. More important than a specialized Masters would be to ensure that professionals are able to travel to conferences and attend CE”

• “To a large extent, we are each responsible for making every day a learning day, and it's hard to predict all the things you will need to learn for a career: versatility, resilience, creativity are aptitudes and attitudes that we need to foster in colleagues from the start.”
Conclusions drawn by the authors

• there is substantial demand for further education
• the need for training in general LIS-related topics is higher than in topics related to Evidence Based Medicine
• people prefer standardized (and smaller) online modules that provide a diploma.
• not too expensive
• can be offered in English
Let’s reflect and discuss together

• **What are our conclusions**

• About the survey:
  – methodology, e.g. scope, data gathering, survey questions, grouping/selection of skills etc.
  – reporting the results, conclusions drawn by the authors etc.
  – did you answer the survey (6 answers from Finland)?

• About the results:
  – Any surprises?
  – Something missing?
  – Do you agree with the respondents views?
  – How would you like further educate yourselves?
THANK YOU!
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