Methodology

The study is exploratory, qualitative and quantitative. Systematic surveys were carried out among school librarians. The analysis unit is state and private elementary schools in the District of General Pueyrredón, having school librarians in charge of a library within the official staff plant (POF).

Analysed variables

1. Regarding the assessment of the performance of librarians
   - Frequency
   - Models
   - Instruments
   - Assessed aspects

2. In its service training received by Librarians
   - From official state organizations
   - From private institutions
   - Other training
   - Printed material or documents

3. Needs regarding training/updating on the topic
4. Familiarity with the concept of ALFIN
5. Existence of ALFIN programmes or projects
6. Needs of training/updating regarding ALFIN

Results

1: What do you understand by Informational Literacy?

The concept of ALFIN is referred to as “knowing when and why one needs information, where to find it, and how to evaluate, use and communicate it in an ethical way” (CuLUr 2004).

A 28% elaborated a concept close to this definition, within that percentage, only 1% emphasized the concept of continuous learning. 21% did not answer or the answer was not even close to a conceptualization of the term.

CONCLUSION: 80% of the surveyed librarians elaborated a definition on the basis of their previous knowledge where the idea of Informational Literacy is reflected. 37% associated the term with technologies. 14% linked it directly to users training.

This shows school librarians have an approximation to the concept.

2: Have you ever developed an ALFIN programme or project?

Yes 81%
No 19%

10% expressed they did have an ALFIN related project.

3: Would you be interested in receiving further training regarding ALFIN?

Yes 93%
No 7%

7% would prefer distance or blended forms of training.

Proposal for Literacy

User studies

No 100%

93% of the librarians expressed their interest and concern on the topic.

4: What learning environment do you choose?

Optionally added: 21% did not answer or the answer was not even close to a conceptualization of the term.

5: Needs of training/updating regarding ALFIN

Yes 81%
No 19%

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Conclusion

From this study, it is inferred that school librarians with roles in primary schools of the city of Mar del Plata, do not, on the whole, carry ALFIN projects. The issues to be dealt with are: the lack of understanding on side of these professionals of the Information Literacy question; the absence of lack of infrastructure in most school libraries -especially regarding access to the web and online services; insufficient training programs for teachers and librarians in the field of ICT and in the production of digital educational materials or content.

ALFIN should represent for librarians a movement towards change, so that the educational function constitutes one of the backbones of its management. It is of utmost importance to understand and use the information under the premise that continuous learning is key to the knowledge society.

From the results of this project the Extension Department of the Faculty of Humanities together with the Department of Documentation and Educational Information (CENDIE - Region XIX) has developed an extension project entitled “Encounter of School Librarians: in-service training and updating”. This aims at generating a space where to analyze, discuss and pool activities, projects and concerns of our profession, in addition to promoting and encouraging the training of trainers in Information literacy and providing school librarians with methodologies for the development of information literacy programs.

INTRODUCTION

The academic purpose of the Research Group in Social Sciences (GICIS), of the School of Humanities at Universidad Nacional de Mar del Plata, is to analyze school libraries from different theoretical and practical perspectives.

In particular, the project “The school library: its organization and visibility to school directing teams” aims at discovering the significance that the library, its mission and its functions have in the school, and its relevance to discover its influence on the managerial decision making.

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From private institutions

Other training

Printed material or documents

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