Mentoring Student Interns in Indian Libraries: A Framework for Faculty Librarian Collaboration

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Introduction
Over 100 universities (out of 700+) offer master’s programme in Library and Information Science (LIS). As curriculum requirement, some LIS schools send their master’s students to intern in libraries to gain hands-on experience, for a short duration. Currently there is no accepted framework for such internships. Very few LIS faculty and librarians collaborate on internship aspect. This study attempts to understand role of faculty members and librarians in mentoring students and explore possibility of collaboration between them. Based on their inputs and insights, a model framework to increase impact of internship is presented.

Objectives
• To know whether LIS schools offer short-term internship as part of Masters’ curriculum
• To examine role of LIS faculty and librarians to optimize internship learning outcomes
• To understand the need for a comprehensive framework for an impactful internship
• To explore possibilities for effective collaboration between LIS faculty and Librarians
• To design a model framework for an organized and impactful short-term internship

Results 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sc. No</th>
<th>No. of Universities offering LIS Programmes</th>
<th>No. of Universities offering Internships as part of Master’s Programme in LIS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>45</td>
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Table 1: No of Universities offering internship

Figure 1: Formal Guidelines by LIS Schools for Short-term Internship

The study is an exploratory research using questionnaire as a tool for data collection. Stratified random sampling method is used for choosing samples. 15 LIS faculty members and 25 librarians are selected as samples. Among them, 10 faculty members and 17 librarians have responded. Suitable statistical methods are used to analyze the collected data and the results have been graphically represented.

Methodology

Results 2

Figure 2: Availability of Framework in Libraries for offering short-term internship

Figure 3: Availability of Formal Arrangement between University and Libraries for short-term Internships

Figure 4: Faculty’s opinion regarding need for framework

Figure 5: Librarians’ opinion regarding need for framework

Figure 6: LIS Faculty opinion regarding need for collaboration between LIS Schools and Libraries

Figure 7: Librarians’ opinion regarding collaboration between LIS schools and Libraries

Outcome

• Model framework developed as outcome of the study
• Faculty mentor students to identify internship goals
• Formal arrangement between LIS schools and libraries essential
• Role of faculty and librarians is to identify students’ inclination and aptitude for specific areas in LIS
• Librarians mentor students through structured, library workflow
• Feedback from librarians helps faculty in students’ evaluation
• Students’ Inputs help in mapping workplace requirement with curricular output

Model Framework

Phase I: Readiness, Responsibility and Roles
• Faculty
• Pre-Internship
• Librarians
• Period of Internship
• Post Internship
• Responsibilities of the faculty
• Roles of the librarians

Phase II: Timeline of Internship

Phase III: Internship Initiation, Implementation and Introspection (I-4 Model)

References