

Information Specialist and the Knowledge World: An Applied Study on Egyptian University Libraries

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Abstract:

The information specialist is one of the most important elements of the knowledge age. This is due to his role in collecting, preserving, and disseminating information, according to the successive generations of the Internet, libraries, and information specialists. Paying attention to information specialists is considered the corner stone for advancing towards the knowledge age correctly. However, most of the studies concerned with the information specialists in the information institutions dealt with them in terms of what they should do, the scientific and professional qualification they should have, or the informational elements that should be provided in their institution. These studies did not take into consideration the changes in successive generations of the Internet, libraries, and information specialists, and the subsequent changes, either by themselves, by their institutions, or by users they serve, and then the realization of their role in this system, and here lies the problem of study. Therefore, the study aims to identify the extent to which information specialists are aware of the technological and scientific developments that should be dealt with, the availability of the appropriate environment to achieve this, and before that the availability of motivation to learn and achieve these developments. The study focuses on the information specialists in the university libraries in the governorates of Upper Egypt, namely: Fayoum, Beni-Suef and Menia, during the year 2015 through the survey methodology, using the personal interview, the direct observation, and the questionnaire. The most important results of the study were: lack of knowledge of information specialists of successive generations of the Internet, libraries, or information specialists. Lack of an appropriate environment that supports innovation and creativity; whether technological tools, management, users, training, work stress. Finally, most of them do not have the motivation to apply or try anything new.