

**TITLE:****Usage data analysis for supporting decisions in LIS management**

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Giovanna MIRANDA, Francesca GUALTIERI**ABSTRACT****Purpose and Setting**

Library and Information Services (LIS) budget is almost totally absorbed by the cost of journal subscriptions, e-books and databases access. To meet budget constraints, purchase of new journals, books or database purchases often requires the cancellation of others which are currently in use.

To face the economic trend, LIS need to know very well their users' needs, habits, preferred titles and databases and ways to interact with information. Usage analysis is an emerging area of bibliometric research that help LIS to focus the need to standardize sources and become an essential part of their work plan.

**Objective**

Access to journals — both online and paper — through personal and institutional subscriptions, is a keyfactor that shapes frequency of use.

To identify if usage analysis is widely used in Italy, beginning 2010, we have invited the members of GIDIF, RBM (the Italian librarians and documentalists of pharmaceutical industries and biochemical research institutes association), to participate in a survey.

**Methods/Process**

The survey is focused on qualitatives or quantitatives methods, and tools available to obtain information on the usage of information sources namely journals and books, in paper or electronic format, and databases.

The survey was carried out among the 81 members of Gidif, Rbm.

**Results**

Analysis of survey results will be completed by the end of May 2010.

**Outcomes/Conclusions**

Usage analysis could help not only in making decision and choosing a more tailored journal collection and database selection, but also to identify problems and weakness, to justify expenses and budget allocations, to monitor the library's expansion, to prioritize research areas and to predict prospective. Last but not least, to gain support of top management in deciding budget allocations. Since several methods and tools are available to obtain usage statistics, librarians have to choose and adapt the best method to be applied to their libraries. The analysis of the results will show which methods is the most used through the libraries belonging to the Gidif, Rbm Association.

The results of the survey will be presented at the conference.