

**TITLE:**

Educational needs and self-perceived skills of teaching librarians – a comparative Polish-Norwegian study.

**AUTHOR(S):**

Barbara Niedzwiedzka (1), Irene Hunskår (2)

**AFFILIATION:**

MedLibTrain Project

(1) Information Studies Department IPH, Jagiellonian University Medical College

(2) Haralds plass Deaconess University College and Betanien Deaconal University College; Bergen

**PRESENTING AUTHOR(S):**

Barbara Niedzwiedzka; Irene Hunskår

**ABSTRACT**

In 2009 the librarians of the Medical Library of Jagiellonian University in Cracow (Poland) and librarians associated in the Health Section of the Medical Library Association in Norway conducted a study to compare educational needs and self-assessed skills of teaching librarians in health care sectors in both countries. The project was financed by the EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms 2004 – 2009.

**The aim of the study**

The primary goal of the study was to obtain data necessary for the recognition of the present educational needs, preferences and limitations of Polish and Norwegian teaching librarians in order to develop a common course for librarians-trainers in both countries.

Such a course will hopefully improve the qualifications of health and medical librarians in both countries, and to appropriately adjust their competence to the changing needs of medical information users.

**Method**

A survey was conducted in both countries, in order to generate numerical data and to identify generalizable issues. The target population was librarians who teach or want to teach in medical and health libraries. A survey questionnaire was developed on the basis of literature studies, a methodological seminar and interviews conducted with teaching librarians. The questionnaire, which consisted mainly of closed questions, but also left space for free text answers, was translated into Polish and Norwegian. In June 2009 invitations to participate in the web-based survey were sent to 230 librarians in Norway and to 165 librarians in Poland.

The answers were entered into a database and the internal consistency of the entered data was checked. A statistical analysis was performed, and the open answers analysed.

**Response rate**

The response rate in Poland was 48% (80 questionnaires) and in Norway 44% (100 answers). These response rates do not allow for general inference, but were similar and are sufficient to identify some interesting features and needs of surveyed librarians in both countries.

The results, comparisons and conclusions will be the subject of the presentation.