

Skills and Knowledge Required by the Twenty First Century Health Information Professional

Karen Davies

Why is This Relevant?

- Personal – the skills you need to maximise your potential to an employer
- Academically – what educators need to ensure all students gain from their courses of study
- Employers – what kind of skills candidates should realistically possess

Aim / Objective

- Aim - analyze “professional” health information vacancies advertised on three specific websites for 6 months
- Objective - to identify the core skills required by employers advertising for health information professionals

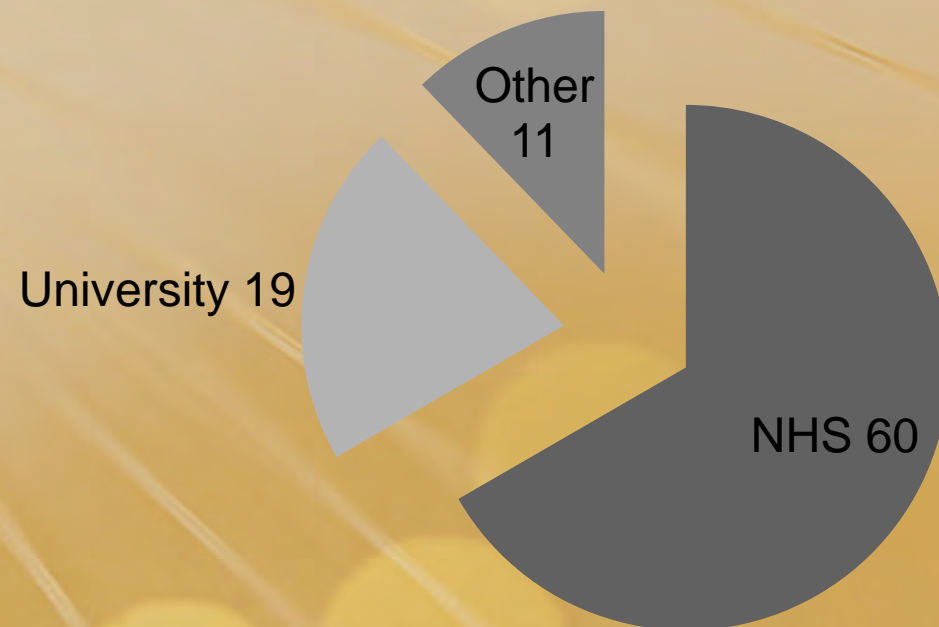
Methodology

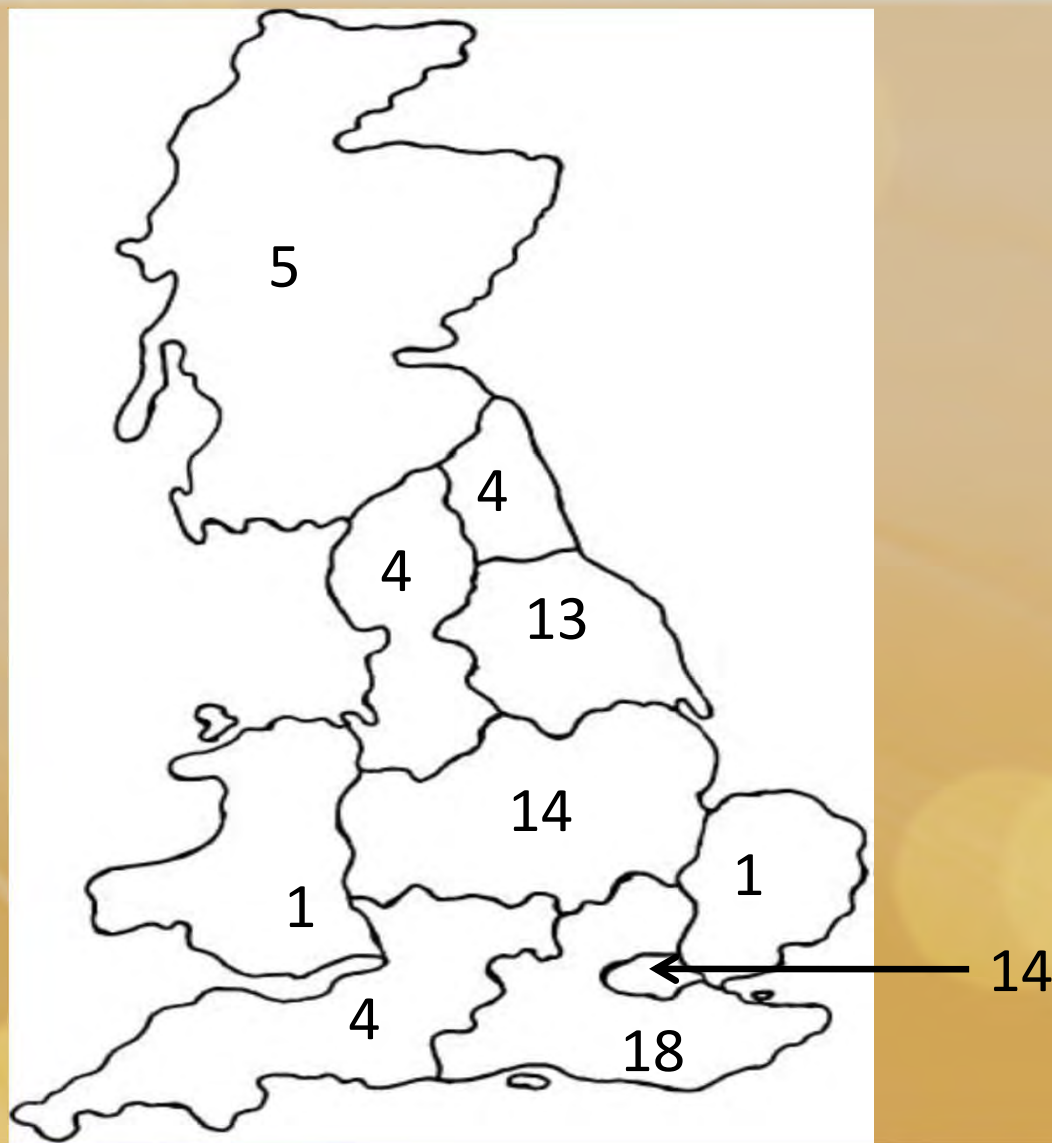
- Fortnightly review of websites
- Person specifications downloaded
- Degree required
- Content analysis

Number of Vacancies

- 9% of all the vacancies advertised on general websites were health-related
- 90 health-related vacancies were identified

Employer Type

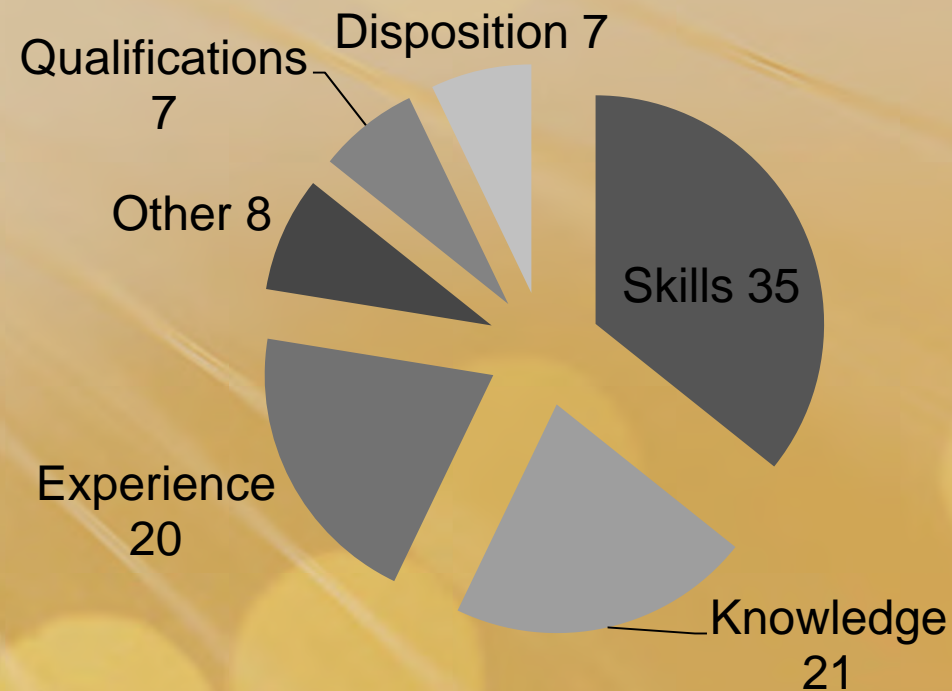




Job Titles

- Librarian – 49%
- Manager – 20%
- Specialist – 13%
 - Information – 30%
 - Knowledge – 14%
 - Outreach – 10%

Person Specification Categories



Ranked Person Specifications I

1. Degree in information science, etc
2. Communications - 1-1, group, all levels
3. Writing skills
4. CILIP chartership or higher degree
5. Interpersonal skills

Ranked Person Specifications II

6. Computer / IT skills
7. Team player
8. Use own initiative
9. Healthcare database experience
10. Excellent literature searching skills

Top Ten Differences

2006

- Oral and writing communication skills
- Prioritise and keep to deadlines
- MS Office
- Electronic resources / Internet experience

2009

- Communication
- Writing skills
- Higher degree or CILIP chartership
- Computer / IT skills
- Healthcare databases

Specification Changes

2006

- Cataloguing standards
- Prince II
- Understand education issues
- Experience in a library, health library or at senior level

2009

- Internet standards
- Other qualifications
- Understand current library issues
- Experience in intranet content management, recruitment and QA

Conclusion

- Course assignments – writing skills, communication, team work, own initiative
- Lifelong learning - continuing professional development

daviesk@uwm.edu