

Deploying fresh LIS Graduates and Diplomates in private sector, in New Normal Sri Lanka.

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Abstract

The primary role of the libraries is to provide access to information, and librarians facilitate readership. Along with the rise of the pandemic of Covid-19, avoidance of touchpoints, and online academic delivery, Google scholar was the popular solution for most of the educational information requirements. As a result, the installation of LIS graduate Diplomate in libraries became less demanding. A survey (2021) revealed that 90% of the multitaskers who were non-LIS qualified were ready to challenge classifying library resources via online facilities while contributing to similar job roles. This research aims to support the LIS graduates and diplomates of LIS to understand the focus area to be improved in the real-life experience of job placement in the private sector libraries and related job roles. Four primary resources produce library professionals in Sri Lankan job market. They are the University of Kelaniya, the University of Colombo, the Sri Lanka Library Association, and the Open University of Sri Lanka. A survey was conducted among random groups of fresh LIS graduates and diplomates who completed their respective qualifications. There were 100 responses within a week, revealing that 90% of them have completed internships. But less than 50% were successfully deployed in salaried careers within three months of graduation above the minimum wage standards of Sri Lanka. Approximately 30% continue volunteer work in temporary projects due to their passion. Are they ready to match the job requirement of private-sector employers? Do they get groomed by their respective studies for potential placement? A set of 50 job candidates who attended interviews in different private sector institutes applying for Assistant Librarian or Library Assistant revealed that 80% prefer to work in Private sector libraries due to financial potentiality. Eight percent (8%) prefer to work in State sector libraries due to the retirement benefits. They were not ready to compromise their passion for library science. 12% were prepared to start with any job for financial security. More than 80% of the rejected candidacy were due to a lack of communication skills. Therefore, LIS graduates and diplomates should be ready to deploy qualifications in the real world vis-à-vis the set of skills acquired by the candidate should be deployable.

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