How do early career health sciences information professionals gain competencies?

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APPENDIX B

Survey

* Have you graduated with an American Library Association (ALA)–accredited master's degree in library and information science?
❍ Yes
❍ No

* You answered "no" to the previous question, please select from the following:
❍ Currently enrolled in master's of library science (MLS) program
❍ Have another advanced degree
❍ Other (please specify) _____

* What year did you graduate? _____

* Are you currently working full-time in a professional information-related position?
❍ Yes
❍ No

Are you currently employed in the information field?
❍ Employed in the information field in a professional part-time, temporary, consultant, per diem, or similar position
❍ Employed in the information field as a paraprofessional or other nonprofessional position
❍ Employed, but not in the information field
❍ Not currently employed
❍ Other (please specify) _____

* If you are currently employed, is your position in the health sciences information field?
❍ Yes
❍ No

* How long have you been in your current position?
❍ 0–6 months
❍ 6 months–1 year
❍ 1–2 years
❍ 2–3 years
❍ 3–4 years
❍ 4–5 years
❍ More than 5 years

* Please choose the option that most closely describes your current employer:
- ○ Academic
- ○ Hospital
- ○ Government
- ○ Nonprofit
- ○ Other (please specify) _____

* Have you previously been employed in the health sciences information field?
- ○ No
- ○ Yes (please provide a brief explanation) _____

* How many years of experience do you have in the health information field?
- ○ 0–6 months
- ○ 6 months–1 year
- ○ 1–2 years
- ○ 2–3 years
- ○ 3–4 years
- ○ 4–5 years
- ○ More than 5 years

* Do you consider librarianship to be your first career?
- ○ Yes, my first professional position was in the information field
- ○ No, I had previous professional experience before becoming an information professional

* How many years of previous professional experience did you have?
- ○ 0–6 months
- ○ 6 months–1 year
- ○ 1–2 years
- ○ 2–3 years
- ○ 3–4 years
- ○ 4–5 years
- ○ More than 5 years
- ○ Other (please specify) _____

The next 7 sections cover the MLA *Competencies for Professional Success.* The example skills have been adapted from the official document <http://www.mlanet.org/page/competencies>.

Please rate the degree to which you feel you have demonstrated this competency, and select or describe the methods through which you acquired this competency.

* Understand the health sciences and health care environment and the policies, issues, and trends that impact that environment.

Examples of this competency include, but are not limited to:
- Understand the different health sciences professions, including their education and training, clinical role, varied terminology
- Understand the basic landscape of biomedical research, drug and device development, health insurance, and clinical care environments; and recognizing important legal issues
- Recognize professional and governmental organizations that are important to the biomedical field

I have demonstrated this competency.

Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neutral	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree	N/A
O	O	O	O	O	O

If you selected disagree, neutral, or N/A, please explain: _____

* I attained this competency through: (please check all that apply)
- ❍ LIS education
- ❍ Other formal education (e.g., degree or certificate program)
- ❍ Work experience prior to LIS career
- ❍ Internship, fellowship, residency, or other preprofessional formal training program
- ❍ Volunteering or other preprofessional informal training
- ❍ Mentoring relationship
- ❍ Peer or colleague relationship
- ❍ Employer provided training
- ❍ MLA or other organization, continuing education courses, etc.
- ❍ Other (please specify) _____

* Know and understand the application of leadership, finance, communication, and management theory and techniques.

Examples of this competency include, but are not limited to:
- Understand the role of your library within your institution, your library's mission, and your library's relationship with other departments or organizations
- Participate in library programs and services administration, including budgeting, marketing, project management, and evaluation/assessment
- Communicate effectively with colleagues, patrons, and the public, both orally and through your writing

I have demonstrated this competency.

Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neutral	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree	N/A
O	O	O	O	O	O

If you selected disagree, neutral, or N/A, please explain: _____

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- ❍ Other (please specify) _____

* Understand the principles and practices related to providing information services to meet users' needs.

Examples of this competency include, but are not limited to:
- Understand and assess the diverse information needs of health practitioners, researchers, administrators, educators, students, patients, consumers, and the general public
- Identify and maintain familiarity with information resources in the health sciences and related fields and their relevance to specific disciplinary or audience information needs

I have demonstrated this competency.

Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neutral	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree	N/A
O	O	O	O	O	O

If you selected disagree, neutral, or N/A, please explain: _____

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❍ Other (please specify) _____

* Have the ability to manage health information resources in a broad range of formats.

Examples of this competency include, but are not limited to:
▪ Select, acquire, and control resources within the publishing industry and resource vendors
▪ Maintain familiarity with institutional and broader policies on scholarly publishing, copyright, licensing, privacy, and intellectual property issues
▪ Understand how materials are cataloged, classified, abstracted, and indexed; use controlled vocabulary to add value to catalog and database searches
▪ Understand bibliometric techniques and identify journal, article, and author metrics

I have demonstrated this competency.

Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neutral	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree	N/A
O	O	O	O	O	O

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❍ Other (please specify) _____

* Understand and use technology and systems to manage all forms of information.

Examples of this competency include, but are not limited to:
▪ Understand the basic functional principles of automated systems and apply best practices when working with computer hardware and software, record and file construction, database and website management systems, networking, and information technology security issues
▪ Participate in the acquisition, use, and evaluation of information technologies
▪ Remain aware of applications in emerging areas of biomedicine computational biology and health information, including electronic health care systems and records

I have demonstrated this competency.

Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neutral	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree	N/A
O	O	O	O	O	O

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- ❍ Other (please specify) _____

* Understand curricular design and instruction and have the ability to teach ways to access, organize, and use information.

Examples of this competency include, but are not limited to:
- Understand fundamentals of information literacy, adult learning theory, learning style appraisal, and cognitive psychology as related to patrons' educational needs and assessment, analysis, and evaluation
- Work independently, with colleagues, and with committees to develop curriculum and instructional methodologies, technologies, and systems
- Teach informatics competencies and evidence-based decision making

I have demonstrated this competency.

Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neutral	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree	N/A
O	O	O	O	O	O

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- ❍ Other (please specify) _____

* Understand scientific research methods and have the ability to critically examine and filter research literature from many related disciplines.

Examples of this competency include, but are not limited to:
- Use quantitative and qualitative methodologies to conduct research, and understand their interpretation
- Locate, organize, and critically evaluate the research literature
- Understand common statistical techniques and statistical interpretations of research and assess whether the statistics support the conclusions

I have demonstrated this competency.

Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neutral	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree	N/A
O	O	O	O	O	O

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Thank you for taking part in our survey! We appreciate your time and effort.
    This survey was created to study new health sciences information professionals' self-perception of their competencies, using the Medical Library Association's *Competencies for Professional Success* as a framework.
    Please feel free to provide us with any further comments in the text box below. All comments are anonymous.