ABSTRACT

This study uses quantitative methods to study the degrees and majors of all 123 academic library deans at Association of Research Libraries (ARL) institutions.

Statistical analysis shows trends in the educational background of library deans at the premier academic libraries of North America. Factors considered include presence or absence of a library science degree, presence or absence of a doctoral degree, length of time in the dean position, major subjects of study, and Carnegie classification of the institution at which the degrees were earned.

This study shows trends in hiring deans as well as commonalities among those interested in administrative library positions.
METHODOLOGY

- sample details/size (ARL library deans)
- document analysis:
  - library websites
  - university directories
  - university catalogs
  - faculty profiles
  - CVs
  - press releases
  - remaining information from emails
RESEARCH QUESTION / HYPOTHESES

- Are newer deans more likely to possess a doctorate? An advanced degree in addition to the masters in library science?
- What percentage of deans have a masters in library science?
- Are deans with PhDs more or less likely to also possess a masters in library science?
- How many deans’ PhDs are in library science?
DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS

- Total ARL Deans / Directors
  - 56 male
  - 69 female

- Current study includes 104
  - 45 male
  - 59 female

- 71 % hired for current position after 2000

- 68% of doctorate holders were hired after 2000
  - Only 24% have doctoral degrees
DEANS AND DIRECTORS HIRE DATES

Year Hired for Current Position

- 1980-89: 35%
- 1990-99: 22%
- 2000-05: 36%
- 2006-10: 7%
MLS Only

- 35.6% have MLS with no additional advanced degree
- 72.9% of MLS only holders were hired since 2000
ADVANCED DEGREES HELD

* Possession of MLS unknown
ADVANCED DEGREE SUBJECTS (NOT INCLUDING MLS)

- 12.5% American or European History
- 7.7% MBA
- 6.7% Education
- 3.8% Public Administration
- 2.9%
  - English
  - Latin American Studies
- 1.9%
  - Music
  - Economics
  - Computer Science
  - Art History
- Less than 1%
  - Agriculture, French, Middle Eastern Studies, Asian Languages, Theology, Anthropology, Government, Liberal Studies
**Doctorate Holders**

- 25 total
  - 1 MD
  - 1 DPA
  - 23 PhD or EdD
    - 9 History
    - 6 Education
    - 3 Library Science
    - 3 Unspecified
    - 1 Economics
- 56% male
- 45% female
- All doctorate holders without MLS male
Institutions with Deans or Directors without MLS

- UC Berkeley
- Harvard
- Yale
- University of Michigan
- Library of Congress
- National Institute of Health
Further Research

Regression analyses should be used to determine if there have been any changes in degrees of deans and directors hired in the last 40 years.

Further analysis needs to be done regarding the relationship between the degrees of the deans and directors and their other work experiences.

- Many of these librarians completed their degrees in the 60s and 70s – it may be helpful to see what other experiences contributed to their success.

A comparison of the ARL deans with other types of institutions would present a more comprehensive picture.
**Further Research**

- None of the ARL Library deans and directors earned advanced degrees in the hard sciences. Do advanced studies in some subject areas provide better preparation than others?
- Is there a relationship between advanced study subject area and type of institution?
ANY QUESTIONS?

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