Education and professional development of art librarians in Brazil

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The Library Science Courses in Brazil

1\textsuperscript{st} 1911 - National Library (Rio de Janeiro)

2\textsuperscript{nd} 1929 - Mackenzie College (São Paulo)

- The Library Science Elementary Course (Columbia University)

1962 – Federal law

- mandatory undergraduate degree in librarianship

- Standard curriculum (technical content)

1967 – School of Communications and Arts of the University of São Paulo

- Information Studies + Culture Studies
2016

- 37 Librarianship Undergraduate Schools
  - 31 public universities
  - 6 private colleges
- 14 Information Science Graduate Programs (Master and Ph.D.)
- 34,805 librarians registered in the Federal Librarianship Council
Where do they work? | %
--- | ---
University library | 37
Specialized library | 21
School library | 12
Public library | 11
Unemployed | 3
Teaching | 2
Consulting | 2
Retired | 2
Abandoned the field | 1
Others | 9
**total** | **100**

(Paletta and Milanesi, 2016)
What about the curriculum?

34 curricula available in the web were analyzed.

Courses related to Arts in the Brazilian Librarianship Curriculum:

- > 10 courses: 47%
- 5 to 9 courses: 26%
- 2 to 4 courses: 18%
- Only 1 course: 6%
- No course: 3%
Courses subjects

- Art history (44%)
- Art theory, Philosophy of Art (7%)
- Audiovisual cataloguing (7%)
- Culture, Art and Information (4%)
- Heritage, Museum, Museology (2%)
- Rare works (4%)
- Architecture (4%)
- Photography (7%)
- Film and video (9%)
The Information Networks in Art - Redarte

- The 70’s: First cooperative projects
- The 80’s: Controlled Vocabulary of Arts (1st version) + Diagnosis of Art Libraries
- April 8th 2016: New REDARTE (Sao Paulo)
  - Sao Paulo Musem of Art; Pinacoteca of Sao Paulo; Lasar Segall Museum; School of Communications and Arts; School of Architecture and Urbanism; Museum of Contemporary Art; Museum AfroBrasil; Goethe Institute; Moreira Salles Institute (SP); ESPM Library; Cultural Institute Itau and Bienal Foundation.
Redarte/RJ and Redarte-SP

- **Goals**
  - Develop joint projects that promote the circulation and wide dissemination of information about art.
  - Establish channels for the communication and exchange of information among professionals of affiliated institutions.
  - Create mechanisms for the sharing of procedures and products developed by the affiliated institutions.
  - Promote cooperation with related networks in the world.
Online survey to the art librarians

Questions

- Where did you graduate? How long ago?
- Were there disciplines focused on the field of Art in your curriculum?
- What kind of courses did you specialize in?
- What skills and competencies do you consider essential to perform your duties as an art librarian?
Results

- 26 librarians answered the survey.
- 92% studied in/graduated from public institutions
- 62% have more than 20 years of professional experience
- 60% had courses related to Arts in the curriculum
- Almost every art librarian did a specialized course in Arts
  - 53% did extension courses of Arts;
  - 23% got a Master's and/or Doctorate degree in Information Science;
  - 8% got a Master's in Arts
  - 8% did a specialized course in Management
  - 8% did not do any specialization course.
About courses related to Arts in their curricula

- History of Art: 72%
- Cultural Policy: 4%
- Introduction to Museology: 4%
- Cataloguing of Art works: 4%
- Aesthetics: 3%
- Art and Culture: 3%
- Audiovisual documentation: 3%
- Film: 3%
- Religious art: 3%
Essential skills and competencies to be an art librarian

- Knowledge of the reference sources
- Knowledge of Art history
- Development and management of information services in art which includes social networks, databases, and digital preservation.
- Cataloguing non-conventional material
- Knowledge of collection development
- Project management
- Technical knowledge of the different audiovisual and digital materials
- Conservation of materials on different media
- Knowledge about the combination of the different supports and the new technologies of access
- Knowledge of specific thesauri and controlled vocabularies
- Knowledge of the history of great art libraries
Actions to stay updated

- Participation in events
- Continuing education
- Learning foreign languages
- Empathy with users
- Maintaining a network of contacts with other professionals in the area
Conclusions

- Contributing with the curriculum update
- Signaling to the schools the demands of the art libraries
- Raising awareness of the need for specialized knowledge and the ability to structure information systems for non-conventional material
- Developing cooperative projects
- REDARTE-SP and REDARTE/RJ interacting more closely with ARLIS/NA
References


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Thanks!

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