THE CHALLENGES OF INFORMATION PROFESSIONALS IN MALAYSIA

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Abstract
The aim of this paper is to investigate the challenges of information professional in Malaysia.In this paper, we focus on the skills, job opportunity, and roles of information professional. The paper improve the understanding about the importance of informationa professional in Malaysia..
Keywords: *21th century; challenges; information professional; roles; skills*

INTRODUCTION

The information professionals are the people that handle information with a system for organizing and keeping valuable information in variety of formats that could be used and referred to anytime that it is needed. The information professionals in Malaysia are increasing as many university students are graduating in the field of library science and information management. The graduates are trained in the field of librarianship and managing information so that they can handle information and organize and keep them in a systematic ways. The only problem we face is that in Malaysia the profession of information professionals is not fully utilized and it is not considered as a professional line of work. Otherwise, many people also do not clearly understand and do not aware of existence of information professionals.

The lack of attention towards the importance of utilizing the skills of information professionals/librarians has made our country a little backwards in information management that has led to many losses of important information and data. It happens due to the fact that most people who are handling the information are non-professionals or semi-professionals who do not have the skills and knowledge in handling important information. The impact of do not understanding the importance of the information professionals/librarians will affect the country towards a develope country.

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ISSUES

The major issues in this research are about the challenges faces by IPs in Malaysia on 21st century.
We want to find the answer of what actually the challenges that IPs will face on this 21st century which is more to digitization even though there are still have traditional methods.

Otherwise, nowadays there are much information that we never know either it is true information or not. For example, nowadays is a globalization era which is we can get many information easily either through technology or in printed form. If people do not understand the roles and skills of IPs, they will not give job opportunity to IPs and did not get the service and guide from the IPs. From that, they may get inaccurate information and they cannot fulfil their needs and lead those in using and separate wrong information that may be involve other people on wrong information. This is one of the challenges faces by IPs in Malaysia on 21st century.

This issue should be exposed to solve this problem. Being a information professional also is one of the main issues because much perception in Malaysia aspect that is a librarian is not a professional job for them. Malaysia resident is mostly prefers an impressive profession like engineer, doctor and others. From these issues, the research will explore or identify the factor or element that will affect the challenges of IPs in Malaysia on 21st century.

According Aharony (2014) explored the extent to which the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM), and personal characteristics such as threat and challenge, self-efficacy and openness to experience, explain information professionals' and educational technology experts' perspectives about cloud computing. In addition, the study will investigate any differences between these two tech-savvy groups concerning cloud computing adoption. According Corrall & O'brien (2011), the aim of article 'Developing the Legal Information Professional' is to investigate competency requirements for library- basedinformation work in UK law firms, including the specialist subject knowledge required, methods of development and the impact on information professionals of professional support lawyers.In 'E-Book Acquisition Features: Attitude of Iranian Information Professionals' by Ghaebi & Fahimifar (2011), the purpose of this article is to consider the most

important criteria of e-book acquisition in academic libraries. The survey seeks these reasons on the basis of two aspects: e-book features for users and for information professionals or libraries. Moreover, restrictions on e-books acquisition are surveyed with regard to information professionals' attitude.

According Rodriguez (2015), the 'Scholarly Communications Competencies: Open Access Training For Librarians' article is to describe one example of an academic library using existing internal expertise and targeted events to provide training for liaison librarians in support of new scholarly communication initiatives. Challenge was many discuss by author include Broady-Preston (2010), in the paper of the 'Information Professional Of The Future: Polymath Or Dinosaur?', which the purpose is to review the contemporary theories of professionalism, together with an assessment of the complex factors resulting in a fundamental re-examination of the nature and role of the information profession (IP) in contemporary society. This article was using methodology which is a combination of strong structuration.

Based on the article 'Emerging Challenges In Academic Librarianship And Role And of Library Associations In Professional Updating' by Thomas (2010), he state that the paper aims to discuss the challenges posed by the contemporary library environment, which are the results of ICT and the digital revolution, and call for developing new competencies and skills as well as a new set of proficiencies. It also seeks to analyze the role of professional bodies, especially in India, in preparing librarians to meet these challenges. From this article, we will see the challenge that related to the librarian roles. According Dickson & Holley (2010), based on article 'Social Networking in Academic Libraries: The Possibilities and The Concerns' the purpose is to examine the concerns about their use both from students and within the academic library. Based on the 'The Digital Librarian' by Massis (2014), this paper aims to show how a new academic library works and the issues and challenges facing a digital library. Challenges of academic library is to encourage student use the library but at the same time they will update digital library for facilities or services that provides by library for student to access information every time or anywhere. The effort will help them to deal with future decision-making as it is the most important aspect in the organizations (Izhar et al., 2012; Izhar et al., 2013)

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Based on research issues, we identify research questions which important for this research. The questions are:
- What are the skills that are required by information professionals in Malaysia?
- How big the job opportunities for Information Professionals in Malaysia on 21st century?
- What are the roles of information professional in giving awareness to public in Malaysia?

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The aim of this paper is:

- To examine the skills that need by information professionals or librarian in Malaysia.
- To investigate the job opportunity level for IPs in Malaysia on 21st century.
- To observe the roles of information professional or librarian in giving awareness to public in Malaysia.

FRAMEWORK AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Information professional are very important to the library even in academic library, special library or resources centre in school because they are have deep knowledge in library science field that maybe other position do not know. The challenges they need to face is related to the trend nowadays which is in this technology era globalization and at the same time to make people understand their description of job and give awareness the knowledge in their field.

Information professionals has role to educate people or student to find information through information literacy education, find accurate information and other role is to give knowledge or information and educate people to find information or books through technology or use services that provided to make user easier such as to find information or access book by the system that provide by certain library. If we want to get knowledge or some information, we need someone to guide us the truth or accurate information and the person guide must the professionals in their field. For example, we need build house so we need architect to make plan for the house because they are the professionals in their profession. So, in Malaysia must use the information professional or librarian at whole library in Malaysia to make people aware about the important and role of information professional or librarian and make them understand that job description of IPs or librarian.
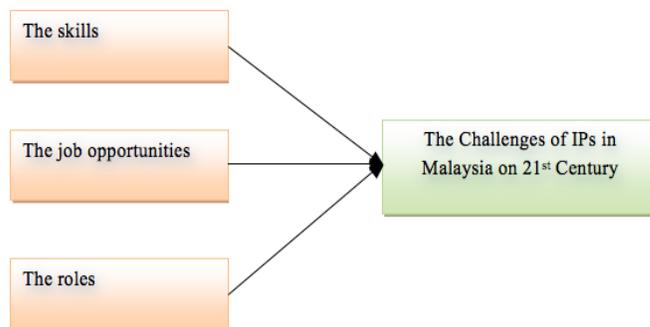

Figure 1. Research Framework.

In Figure 1, we focus on the skills, job opportunity, and roles of IPs. From all the information we gather, it will lead us

understand an importance of IPs in Malaysia. Rather than that, we may get data that comes from experience and opinion of our chosen respondents. From the feedback, we will know the relationship between the importance of IPs and the challenges of IPs in Malaysia on this 21st Century in by deliver their services. In the last stages, we expect will get the result which is the challenges of IPs in Malaysia on 21st Century.

CONCLUSIONS

The research also give many information through the challenge information professionals must be face to make user or other people aware about the scope of job creation in library science field. Then, information professionals can know the percentage of awareness people about the position or job description as information professionals or librarian and it will be give chance to information professionals to promote their field. The organization that has libraries or resources centre can take the opportunity for support the IPs in Malaysia because information professionals can help the user to find accurate, relevant and updated information because IPs one of the job that give service to the user. Then, we can compare the awareness our community with other people in developing country such as Singapore and America. In conclusion, this research give many benefit for make people aware about the function and responsibility of IPs in Malaysia.

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