Professional Profile Survey of the Law Librarian in the State of São Paulo, Brazil

Daniela Majorie Akama dos Reis

PhD candidate in Information Science at UNESP

Law librarian at Lobo de Rizzo Advogados Associados
What is this research about?
This research deals with the concepts of the librarian as a professional and his or hers specialty in the legal area. It presents updated data of these professionals, the libraries in which they work and difficulties of their educational and professional path.

What’s the objective here?
The objective is to provide updated quantitative and qualitative data regarding the law librarian's profession and to name the services offered in the state of São Paulo.
The Law Librarian

The law librarian is the professional with a bachelor’s degree in library science, working in institutions related to the legal area.

Edilenice Passos (2001) defines the “law librarian” as:

“a professional who facilitates access to legal information in a fast and efficient way”

According to Mendes (2010), the law librarian is able to work in:

“university libraries, court libraries, forums, law firms, governmental and nongovernmental agencies”
Paiva et al (2017) considers that the **education of the librarian** occurs through a **bachelor’s degree** in Library Science, with an average length of 4 years.

In Brazil, the **education of the librarian is quite generic**. Specialization takes place with experience and with daily routines in a particular type of library, or information unit. In the **legal area**, in many cases, librarians feel the need to graduate in law, seeking greater knowledge in the area. There is also a gap in relation to the disciplines of Information Science with the legal area in scientific publications (Passos and Barros, 2009).
In São Paulo there are **12,131 registered librarians** and **4,646 active librarians** in June 2018, according to the Federal Library Council - Conselho Federal de Biblioteconomia (CFB).

There is **no official statistical data** of law librarians in São Paulo.

The **Legal Information and Documentation Group of São Paulo** - Grupo de Informação e Documentação Jurídica de São Paulo (GIDJ / SP) has about **150 active members**.
The questionnaires were applied to the members of the Legal Information and Documentation Group of São Paulo (GIDJ / SP).

Between the months of December 2017 and May 2018, 32 librarians answered the questionnaire.

The call for answers occurred through GIDJ / SP’s email group (four reminders), LinkedIn and Facebook (two reminders).

The questionnaire consists of 21 questions that distinguishes professionals by profile, salary range, time of experience in the legal area and type of activities carried out at work.
Education

Bachelor's institution

- ECA/USP: 3%
- FATEMA: 6%
- FESP SP: 16%
- UDESC: 3%
- UNIFAI: 3%
- UNESP: 13%
- UFSCar: 3%
- PUC: 3%
- FAINC: 3%
- Other: 3%

Bachelor's conclusion

- 1976 to 1980: 3%
- 1981 to 1985: 3%
- 1991 to 1995: 22%
- 1996 to 2000: 9%
- 2001 to 2005: 19%
- 2006 to 2010: 38%

Education

Main difficulties in starting a career as a law librarian

- Lack of specialized education: 53%
- Difficulty in assimilating legal terms: 44%
- Unawareness of official sources of legal information: 38%
- Difficulty in understanding the legislative and judicial process: 31%
- Lack of database that brings together federal, state and municipal legislation: 19%

Professional improvement course for legal area

- Yes: 56%
- No: 44%

More than one bachelor's degree

- Yes: 72%
- No: 28%
Routine work

Systems used to disseminate information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>System</th>
<th>Usage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bibliographic collection research portal</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GED</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intranet</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Document Models</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wikis, Blogs and Sites</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Library Software

- ABCD: 38%
- Informa: 19%
- Library Manager: 6%
- Pergamum: 3%
- WINISIS: 3%
- None: 3%
- Own software: 6%
- BNWeb: 3%
- Law Firm Manager (LFM): 3%
- Notes - IBM: 3%
- Sophia: 3%
- Demand-driven software: 3%
Routine work

Use of documentary language

50% Yes 50% No

Especific documentary language used

- Thesaurus of the Senate: 25%
- Thesaurus of the Superior Court of Justice: 6%
- Controlled vocabulary: 25%
- Own controlled language: 25%
- Not informed: 25%
Who does the law librarian respond to directly?

- Management assistant: 6%
- Financial coordinator: 13%
- General coordinator: 25%
- Manager: 6%
- Human Resources: 13%
- Secretary: 6%
- No opinion: 3%
- Budget free: 9%
- Confidential: 3%
- No opinion: 3%

Annual budget

- From R$ 1,000,00 to R$ 50,000,00: 34%
- From R$ 50,000,00 to R$ 100,000,00: 19%
- From R$ 100,000,00 to R$ 200,000,00: 9%
- From R$ 200,000,00 to R$ 500,000,00: 9%
- Above R$ 500,000,00: 22%
- No opinion: 6%

Number of professionals covered by the service

- From 10 to 50: 3%
- From 51 to 100: 6%
- From 101 to 150: 9%
- From 151 to 200: 9%
- From 201 to 300: 19%
- From 301 to 500: 9%
- Above 500: 6%
- No opinion: 3%
In conclusion:

The law librarian remains **challenged to constantly reinvent the profession**

To **be self-taught** in relation to the legal area

To **show their value**, making their **services indispensable** in the legal domain
Due to the absence of instruction about law libraries during formal education, the law librarian is dependent on his or hers curiosity and experience. They also rely on the knowledge of more experienced law librarians to perform their duties properly.

It is understood that the law librarian has a wide range of activities in several legal branches and, although most of them work in law firms, there are still other fields to be achieved by knowledge research, both in the public and private spheres.
About the firm
The firm advises national and international companies in disputes, projects and transactions in the most diverse sectors of the economy.

Practice Areas
- Antitrust
- Corporate and M&A
- Dispute Resolution
- Environmental
- Finance and Capital Markets
- Infrastructure
- Intellectual Property
- Labor
- Public Law
- Real Estate
- Tax

Meet the team
Daniela Reis
- daniela.reis@loboderizzo.com.br
- danielaakamareis

Paula Drumond
- paula.drumond@loboderizzo.com.br
- pauladrumond
**Collection:** About 3,000 books in print format, and 1,500 periodicals in print format

**Focus:** Innovative products and services in digital format

**Project in progress:** Indexing of documents created by the members of the firm. Dissemination of the same to all members via Knowledge Portal (about 2,800 documents available)
Knowledge is something innately human and intimately tied to the passions of the individual.

Knowledge is dynamic, ever changing, and alive.

Knowledge drives us to question the world, to question each other, to question God, to question the nature of reality.

R. David Lankes
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References


Thank you all :)

Daniela Majorie Akama dos Reis

daniela.reis@loboderizzo.com.br

danielamajorie@yahoo.com.br

danielaakamareis