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Subject trends analysis of theses submitted to the University of the Philippines School of Library and Information Studies (UP SLIS) 2001-2006^{*}

The study seeks to determine the subject trends of the 399 undergraduate and graduate theses submitted to the UP ILIS between 2001 and 2006, particularly the expounded and unexpounded subject areas; the trend of these subject areas in the six-year interval; and the tendency of the UP ILIS theses to be intradisciplinary or specialized. Careful examination of the theses by content analysis reveals Libraries and Information Centers as the broad subject area with the most number of expounding theses, and Academic Libraries as the most predominant narrow subject area. Moreover, the broad subject areas do not follow a unique trend, but follow one of the five trends based on its movement in the observed interval--ascending, bell-shaped, consistent, descending, and erratic. The modal number of expounded subject areas per thesis is two, and it follows a positive trend along with other intradisciplinary theses. The specialized theses, on the other hand, follow a steady negative trend, indicating a growing inclination for the LIS researchers to produce more intradisciplinary studies. To improve the quality of produced LIS research, the study encourages more studies on unexpounded and least expounded subject areas, the revitalization of LIS electives as well as the Research Methodology courses taken by BLIS and MLIS students, and the replication of studies such as this.

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