

Sobrevinas, Mary Grace C.*Perceptions of selected library users on the library profession**

The main purpose of this study was to determine and analyze the image and status of library profession based on the perceptions of selected library users from different types of library specifically academic, school, public/government, and special libraries. Specifically, this study endeavoured to answer the following questions: 1) What are the perceptions of selected library users on librarians as persons?; 2) What are the perceptions of selected library users on the work of librarians?; 3) What are the effects of information technology advancements on the work of librarians as perceived by selected library users?; 4) What is the status of the library and information profession in comparison with other professions, as perceived by selected library users in terms of educational level, ability to influence, amount of responsibility, amount of specialization, level of income and information technology expertise; 5) What is the status of librarians in relation to the other professions?; 6) What is the status of librarians in relation to the other occupations? and; 7) What is the status of librarians working in different types of library namely academic, public, school, and special libraries? Descriptive survey research was utilized to respond to the objectives outlined in the study. The respondents consisted of 397 selected library users from twelve libraries/institutions (three institutions for each type of library). The research instrument utilized in this study was a modified version of the survey questionnaire that was previously used by Chito Angeles (1997) in his study, which he adapted from Dr. RAC Bruijns' (1992) research instrument. Frequency counts, percentages, and computation of means were used to interpret and analyze the gathered data. Findings of the study revealed that majority of the

*Sobreviñas, M. G. C. (2007). *Perceptions of selected library users on the library profession*. Unpublished BLIS thesis, School of Library and Information Studies, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City.

selected library users generally perceived the librarians positively as orderly/systematic and well-informed. On the other hand, they also see the librarians negatively as stern/strict and conservative. Respondents believed that library work is based on routine and old-fashioned on the contrary, they see the work of librarians positively as helpful and useful. Majority of the respondents are uncertain if the librarians are able to adapt to the advancement of information technology. Additionally, greater parts of the respondents are aware that librarians are also professionals like medical doctors and engineers. Moreover, findings of the study revealed that out of 15 professions enlisted in the PRC, respondents gave the highest status to medical doctor while the librarian is the twelfth position, whereas the position of the library profession in the occupational status is on the 8th spot. The study also revealed that respondents believed that the library profession should improve its status.