Graduates of the bachelor programme "Information Management": job market and satisfaction (Case of Latvia)

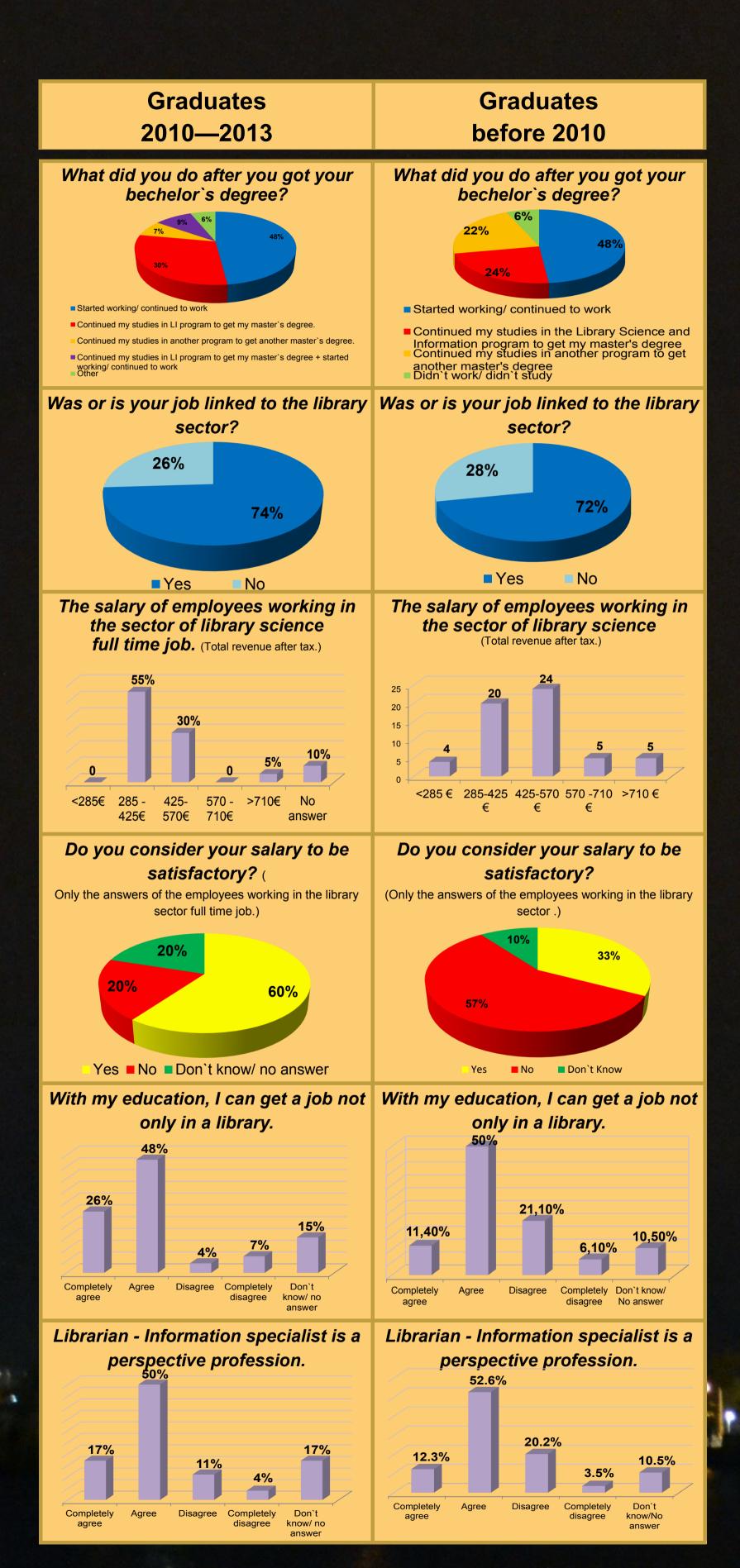
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Abstract: After establishing the new Information management programme, Latvia has obtained young yet skillful specialists who are starting to take part in labour market. But the real question is - if the advanced course of the program gives more advantages in labour market? We are going to create an answer to that, using the bachelor's thesis of Kristīne Mavrina, a graduate of 2013. Her thesis is based on a very similar topic, only it is about an earlier period of time. We are going to compare her results to ours. This is a new experience for Latvia because there are only three courses of bachelors who have graduated in this programme, so we can only wait and see how the situation turns out. However, we can discuss and speculate about the future, as well as to interview professionals about this topic. It is also interesting to find out students' own ideas and views on how valuable the acquired degree will be in the future and if the programme will live up to students' expectations.

Keywords: Information managers, Bachelor's programme, graduates, professional competence, Latvia.

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INTRODUCTION

This research reflects the career possibilities and work opportunities in Latvia for students who graduated from the Information Management (IM) bachelor programme and the choices they've made. The research was conducted where the opinions of graduates of the former Library Science and Information (LI) program were compared with the thoughts and experiences of graduates of the new IM program. Conduct of an opinion poll was carried out for the graduates of the new program, whose answers then were compared with the bachelor thesis research work of Kristīne Mavrina, a graduate of 2013, which was about the same topic, only about former times. She carried out a research by surveying the graduates of LI program from the last 5 years which was contributed by 114 respondents. IM at the University of Latvia is the only programme of this kind in Latvia, and 68 students have already graduated in it. This research was contributed by 46 graduates.

INTERVIEW

with the head of the Department of Information and Library Studies of University of Latvia, director of the bachelore programme "Information Management" associate professor Baiba Holma.

- IM program was created by improving LI program and supplementing it with courses about documents and information management.
- IM is based on learning about technologies and the electronic environment.
 Different kinds of literature studies are no longer included in this program.
- Nowadays, many novelties have ensued, that ensure the possibilities of achieving the same goals with new methods.
- Electronic environment, which keeps on improving is dominant.
- The information field is integrating within other fields, especially social media and publishing, aggregating, managing information in the electronic environment.

INTERVIEW

with the library director of University of Latvia Iveta Gudakovska.

- For now, I haven't noticed a great difference between the graduates of LI program and the graduates of the IM program because those who have graduated from the IM program are only beginning their work at the library of University of Latvia. But students are diverse not always the curriculum is fully mastered and not always it is adequately used in work.
- Theoretically, graduates of the IM program should have more work possibilities in the job market in comparison with graduates of LI program, but in practice it might not be that way. It relies greatly on the amount of knowledge the future employer has of the study program and on the way graduates demonstrate their skills.

CONCLUSION

- It can be concluded that their studies chose to continue in IM master's programme 15% more recent graduates from IM program than from LI program.
- According to 56% of respondents who do not work in the field, it is possible to conclude the main reasons why graduates do not choose to continue their studies in the same field: they have been offered a better job or they were not satisfied with the low income in the field.
- Both of the field experts interviewed agree that the information managment field is rapidly evolving, therefore creating new opportunities in the electronic environment. The graduates who took the survey also find their profession perspetive and long-range.

