

Training Course on Evidence-Based Library and Information Practice: Advanced Research Methods

Professional Development Training Course Outline

Category	Library Institute	Duration	5 Days
Base Fee	\$1,500 USD	Delivery Mode	Online / On-site Hybrid

Course Introduction

In today's dynamic information landscape, **evidence-based practice (EBP)** is no longer an aspiration but a critical imperative for **library and information science (LIS)** professionals. This advanced training program delves into sophisticated **research methodologies**, empowering participants to rigorously **evaluate information**, conduct impactful studies, and drive data-informed decision-making within their organizations. By mastering **advanced statistical analysis**, **qualitative inquiry**, and **mixed methods research**, LIS practitioners will transcend traditional roles, becoming **research-savvy leaders** capable of demonstrating the tangible value and impact of library services in an increasingly complex environment.

Training Course on Evidence-Based Library and Information Practice: Advanced Research Methods equips LIS professionals with the **analytical competencies** and **critical appraisal skills** essential for navigating the abundance of information and generating robust evidence. Participants will learn to design, execute, and interpret **high-quality research studies**, translating findings into actionable insights that optimize **library services**, enhance **user experience**, and ultimately contribute to organizational strategic goals. This program is a vital investment for those committed to advancing the **professionalism** and **impact** of libraries in the digital age.

Programme Curriculum

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Course Objectives

1. Differentiate and apply complex **quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods research designs** to address diverse LIS challenges.
2. Design and implement effective **survey instruments, interview protocols, focus group guides, and observational methods** for LIS research.
3. Utilize advanced **statistical software** to analyze quantitative data, interpret results, and draw valid conclusions for **performance measurement** and **impact assessment**.
4. Apply advanced **qualitative analysis techniques** such as **thematic analysis, grounded theory, and discourse analysis** to explore complex LIS phenomena.
5. Critically appraise and synthesize research findings from diverse sources, including **systematic reviews** and **meta-analyses**, to inform evidence-based decisions.
6. Develop well-defined, answerable **research questions** aligned with organizational needs and LIS challenges.
7. Apply **ethical principles** and obtain **institutional review board (IRB) approval** for all research activities involving human subjects.
8. Explore and apply **AI tools for research, data visualization techniques, and research data management best practices**.
9. Effectively disseminate research results through **scholarly publications, presentations, and impact reports** to diverse stakeholders.
10. Develop strategies to translate research evidence into practical **library policies, programs, and service innovations**.
11. Foster a culture of **inquiry, critical thinking, and continuous improvement** within library organizations.
12. Design and implement **impact assessment frameworks** to demonstrate the return on investment (ROI) of library services.
13. Prepare participants to publish original research in **peer-reviewed journals** and present at professional conferences, advancing the LIS knowledge base.

Organizational Benefits

- Data-driven insights lead to more effective resource allocation, program development, and service improvements, aligning library services with institutional goals.

- Robust research provides compelling evidence of the library's contributions to teaching, learning, research, and community engagement, strengthening advocacy efforts and funding opportunities.
- Evidence-based insights into user needs and behaviors enable the development of highly relevant and user-centric services, increasing engagement and satisfaction.
- A staff skilled in advanced research methods elevates the library's professional standing and fosters a culture of innovation and accountability.
- Research-informed decisions on collection development, technology adoption, and staffing ensure efficient and effective utilization of library resources.
- Embedding research methodologies encourages ongoing evaluation, adaptation, and refinement of services, leading to sustained excellence.
- The ability to articulate clear research methodologies and anticipated outcomes strengthens proposals for external funding.
- Developing strong research skills facilitates inter-departmental and external collaborations on data-driven projects.

Target Audience

1. Academic Librarians.
2. Public Librarians.
3. Special Librarians.
4. Health Information Professionals.
5. LIS Faculty & Researchers.
6. Library Managers & Directors.
7. LIS Students (Graduate Level).
8. Information Analysts & Data Scientists in Libraries.

Course Outline

Module 1: Foundations of Evidence-Based Library and Information Practice (EBLIP)

- Defining EBLIP and its core principles in the modern LIS landscape.
- The EBLIP cycle: Articulate, Assemble, Assess, Agree, Adapt.
- Understanding different types of evidence: Research evidence, local evidence, professional knowledge.
- Identifying the research-practice gap and strategies for bridging it.
- Ethical considerations and responsible conduct of research in LIS.
- **Case Study:** *Analyzing how a university library used patron feedback and circulation data (local evidence) combined with research on user engagement (research evidence) to justify a redesign of their physical space, resulting in increased student satisfaction and usage.*

Module 2: Advanced Quantitative Research Methods

- Experimental and quasi-experimental designs for LIS interventions.
- Survey research design: Advanced sampling techniques, questionnaire construction, and online survey platforms.
- Inferential statistics: Regression analysis, ANOVA, Chi-square tests for library data.
- Data preparation, cleaning, and transformation using statistical software (e.g., SPSS, R).
- Interpreting and presenting quantitative research findings effectively.
- **Case Study:** *A public library aims to evaluate the effectiveness of a new digital literacy program. Participants will design a quasi-experimental study, including pre- and post-test surveys, and analyze simulated data to determine the program's impact on participants'*

digital skills.

Module 3: Advanced Qualitative Research Methods

- In-depth interviewing techniques and focus group facilitation.
- Ethnography and observation in library settings: Understanding user behavior in natural environments.
- Case study research: Designing and conducting comprehensive single or multiple case studies.
- Qualitative data analysis software (e.g., NVivo, ATLAS.ti) for coding, thematic analysis, and discourse analysis.
- Ensuring trustworthiness and rigor in qualitative research.
- **Case Study:** *A special library wants to understand the information-seeking behaviors of a niche professional group. Participants will develop an interview guide, analyze sample interview transcripts using thematic analysis, and present key insights into the group's information needs.*

Module 4: Mixed Methods Research in LIS

- Integrating quantitative and qualitative approaches: Sequential, concurrent, and transformative designs.
- Justifying the use of mixed methods for complex LIS questions.
- Data integration strategies: Connecting quantitative and qualitative findings.
- Challenges and best practices in mixed methods research.
- Writing mixed methods research proposals and reports.
- **Case Study:** *An academic library seeks to understand both the usage patterns (quantitative) and the user perceptions (qualitative) of its new research support services. Participants will design a mixed-methods study to address this question, integrating survey data with focus group insights.*

Module 5: Data Analysis and Visualization for LIS Professionals

- Advanced statistical software applications for library data (e.g., SPSS, R, Python libraries).
- Data visualization principles: Choosing appropriate charts and graphs for different data types.
- Tools for creating compelling data visualizations (e.g., Tableau, Power BI, Google Data Studio).
- Interpreting and communicating complex data insights to non-technical audiences.
- Introduction to basic machine learning concepts for predictive analytics in LIS.
- **Case Study:** *Using a dataset of library circulation records and user demographics, participants will perform descriptive and inferential statistical analysis and create interactive dashboards to visualize usage trends and identify areas for collection development.*

Module 6: Research Design and Grant Proposal Writing

- Developing a comprehensive research proposal: Literature review, methodology, timeline, budget.
- Identifying funding opportunities for LIS research.
- Crafting persuasive grant narratives and budgets.
- Navigating the IRB review process and ethical approvals.
- Project management for research initiatives.
- **Case Study:** *Participants will work in groups to develop a mock grant proposal for a research project aiming to assess the impact of open access initiatives on scholarly*

communication within their institution, including a detailed methodology and budget.

Module 7: Scholarly Communication and Dissemination Strategies

- Navigating the peer-review process for LIS journals.
- Strategies for writing for publication in LIS: Structure, style, and impactful messaging.
- Presenting research at conferences: Abstract writing, poster design, and oral presentation skills.
- Open access publishing and institutional repositories.
- Measuring research impact: Citations, altmetrics, and professional visibility.
- **Case Study:** *Participants will critically appraise a published LIS research article, identify its strengths and weaknesses, and then draft an abstract and outline for a potential conference presentation based on its findings, highlighting key takeaways.*

Module 8: Practical Application and Capstone Project

- Applying learned methodologies to real-world LIS challenges.
- Developing an individual or group research project plan relevant to participants' institutions.
- Mentored research development and feedback sessions.
- Troubleshooting research challenges and problem-solving.
- Presenting capstone research proposals/projects to peers and instructors.
- **Case Study:** *Participants will select an area of interest within their own library or information environment (e.g., digital resource usage, library anxiety among students, impact of marketing campaigns). They will then develop a detailed research plan, including research questions, chosen methodology, data collection instruments, and analysis plan, which they will present and receive feedback on.*

Training Methodology

This course employs a participatory and hands-on approach to ensure practical learning, including:

- Interactive lectures and presentations.
- Group discussions and brainstorming sessions.
- Hands-on exercises using real-world datasets.
- Role-playing and scenario-based simulations.
- Analysis of case studies to bridge theory and practice.
- Peer-to-peer learning and networking.
- Expert-led Q&A sessions.
- Continuous feedback and personalized guidance.

Register as a group from 3 participants for a Discount

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Certification

Upon successful completion of this training, participants will be issued with a globally- recognized certificate.

Tailor-Made Course

We also offer tailor-made courses based on your needs.

Key Notes

- a.** The participant must be conversant with English.
- b.** Upon completion of training the participant will be issued with an Authorized Training Certificate
- c.** Course duration is flexible and the contents can be modified to fit any number of days.
- d.** The course fee includes facilitation training materials, 2 coffee breaks, buffet lunch and A Certificate upon successful completion of Training.
- e.** One-year post-training support Consultation and Coaching provided after the course.
- f.** Payment should be done at least a week before commence of the training, to Fineskill Training Center account, as indicated in the invoice so as to enable us prepare better for you.

Upcoming Scheduled Sessions

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