Introduction

The library profession is getting more diverse each year in the United States. The library literature on immigrant librarians and staff are reviewed and it is found, so far, there is not much written about this topic. The investigator strongly believes that this study will become a valuable contribution to the library literature. Therefore, the investigator of this study who is also an immigrant librarian decided to do a survey on this topic for filling in the gap in the literature but also for building connections across this gap nationally as well as internationally.

In the Spring of 2018, a survey about immigrant librarians and staff in the United States was launched. Highlighted preliminary results of the survey are presented in this poster. Questions are designed to target immigrants educational background, job responsibilities, whether they took leadership positions or not, their gender (third gender was provided as an option), age, how long they have been in the United States, their career goals, the challenges that they faced and their experiences about contributing to diverse community in libraries.

Survey Questions and Answers

- Immigrant librarians and staff contributes to the library profession with their diverse background
- Now it is time for a conversation about this topic in the library community
- Survey shows that there are some challenges that immigrant librarians face and libraries in the US should improve their diversity and inclusion policies in order to help immigrants overcome these challenges

Survey Highlights

- The survey indicates that the majority of survey takers are female (as well as from various genders), between the age of 40 and 50, migrated to the US mainly for family and education purposes, highly educated (almost half of the survey takers have a second masters), have been living in the US for decades, have been in leadership positions as well as in various areas in all types of libraries.
- Immigrants are facing various challenges (cultural, language, educational, not having enough work experience and etc.) to become a librarian or a library staff in the United States.
- 45.34 % of respondents faced challenges when applying for library positions.