

Information science based on FEBAB's census of Brazilian library science: Postgraduate data

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ABSTRACT

The Library and Information Science areas are relatively new compared to other fields of knowledge, with few updated and reliable data that portray their profiles and scarce scientific studies focused on understanding the characteristics of the people composing them. The guiding objective of the research presented in this work is to evidence the data of postgraduates (master's and doctoral students) and postgraduates (masters and doctors) from the Brazilian Library and Information Science Census. Four filters related to the education mentioned above levels were applied, with the data worked in Excel dynamic spreadsheets. The results show a predominant profile of white cisgender women between 36 and 40 years old, working in federal higher education institutions, earning above R\$10,454.00, with experience in the area between 11 and 15 years. The geographical concentration is in Rio de Janeiro, and the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro has the highest number of graduates who continued their studies in *stricto sensu* post-graduation. However, the Federal University of Santa Catarina has the highest number of master's and doctor's respondents. The research objective was achieved to the extent that it presents the profile from the socioeconomic aspects, academic training, and professional performance. We hope that other studies will be conducted using the dynamics of filters provided by the Brazilian Library and Information Science Census so that the government, universities, class entities, and the area itself will better know its profile.

Keywords: information science, socioeconomic aspects, academic education, professional action

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1. INITIAL POINTS

Defined as the determination of specific characteristics of a universe of physical and social objects, a census allows for the verification of all the units or elements that make up such a universe or population, the most frequent terms in Statistics. Census is a synonym used for census when applied to the population of people, characterized as a set of processes aiming to collect, systematize, and disseminate the population's demographic, economic, and social data in one or several delimited periods (Sass, 2012).

In line with this definition, Brazil's Census of Library and Information Science was launched in September 2022. It is an initiative of the Brazilian Federation of Associations of Librarians, Information Scientists, and Institutions (FEBAB) and was supported by the Federal Council of Librarianship (CFB) and the Brazilian Association of Information Science Education (ABECIN) in the construction of the data collection instrument (FEBAB, 2022). As a result of this alliance between professional associations representing Library Science and Information Science in

Brazil, the Census can be considered a valuable source of information for both areas.

The Census was designed to meet a long-standing demand regarding the scarcity or lack of data on people trained in Library and Information Science in Brazil. In this way, the purpose of the Census is to help provide a source of reference information that maps out professionals' profiles based on socio-economic, educational, and professional aspects. Its target audience is people trained in Library Science, Information Science, or Information Management, regardless of the space in which they work, be it libraries, documentation centers, companies, or teaching (FEBAB, 2022).

Considering the above, we would like to highlight the possibility of mapping the area of Information Science using the Census. This is because we understand that it is essential to know the characteristics of professionals in the area and their work to have a dimension of points that should be updated and/or boosted, with a view to professionals with a critical vision to investigate the behaviour and characteristics of information with a focus on people and their different needs.

In Borko's (1968) view, information research has been related since the origins of Information Science to the body of knowledge pertaining to the origin, collection, organization, storage, retrieval, interpretation, transmission, modification, and use of information. These processes demanded in working with information, added to technological development, give rise to the need to prepare professionals with the skills to deal with problems, according to Araújo (2018), about human issues in the social, cultural, political, economic, and legal spheres. Therefore, there is a need for information professionals who have the

techniques to make valuable information. They are also concerned with understanding the dynamics of society, exercising autonomy, and the appropriation of information by all people in their diversity and plurality.

Having said this, the question “What is the profile of Information Science in Brazil?” prompts the aim of the research presented in this paper: to highlight the data on postgraduate students (master’s and doctoral students) and postgraduates (master’s and doctors), based on the Brazilian Library and Information Science Census.

2. METHODOLOGICAL ROUTE

Our research is based on an exploratory and documental characterization (Martins; Theóphilo, 2017), in which we used the data made available by the panel published on the Brazilian Library and Information Science Census website. The tool allows for different perspectives on the area since the data is presented freely.

The data was analyzed using four filters: Master’s degree in progress, Master’s degree completed, Doctorate in progress, and Doctorate completed. This includes 1,305 respondents, 26.95% of the people mapped by the Census. This data was tabulated in Excel spreadsheets, using pivot tables mainly when dealing with answers to open questions.

It is important to note that we have detailed the data for postgraduates and postgraduates (*stricto sensu*) in all areas of knowledge. Hence, the picture presented here is not specific to those with a master’s degree and/or doctorate in Information Science. On the other hand, it is a portrait of those who had their undergraduate training in Library and Information Science and continued their academic career.

3. DATA ANALYSIS

This section outlines the portrait of the people who participated in the Census from socioeconomic profiles, academic backgrounds, and professional activities.

3.1 Socioeconomic profile

It is recognized that the fields of Library and Information Science are predominantly female, and the data obtained reaffirms this characteristic. Of the universe analyzed, 71.26% were cisgender women, followed by 20.61% cisgender men. The LGBT+ population was only 0.77% (0.08% trans men and 0.69% non-binary), 1.38% did not know how to answer, and 1.23% did not want to answer. Figure 1 shows the distribution of age groups between 36 and 40 years old.

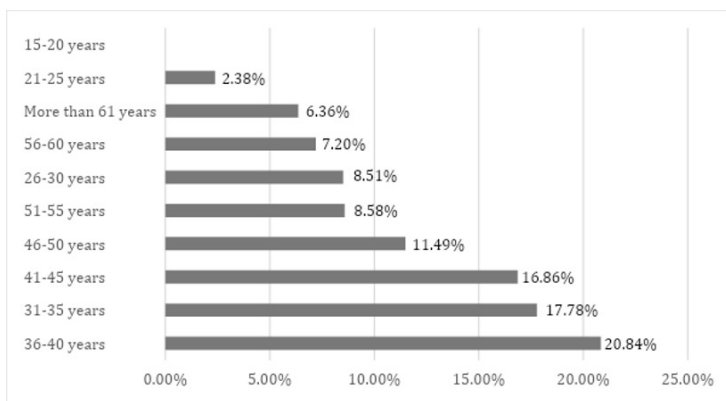


Figure 1. Age range (Source: Brazilian Library and Information Science Census, 2023).

Although research on the presence of women has already been carried out in the Library and Information

Science literature, such as the research by Muller and Martins (2019) and Xavier (2020), among others, there is a need for more discussion about the role of women in terms of recognition in both areas. As for ethnic-racial belonging based on the categories listed by the IBGE (2013), the largest group was made up of white people (59.92%), followed by brown (26.74%), black (11.73%), yellow (0.77%) and indigenous (0.15%). This question had the option “Other,” which accepted open answers, the most frequent being mixed-race people (0.69%). Regarding accessibility, the distribution of responses was quite diverse in terms of types, although in all cases, it was below 1%. Visual impairment was the most mentioned (0.92%), followed by physical (0.69%), hearing (0.38%), intellectual (0.15%), and multiple (0.08%) disabilities. However, as stated in the work organized by Roedel (2020), these figures could be higher due to the late diagnoses that can occur.

As for the respondents' states of residence, there were responses from 26 of them, except Acre. Figure 2 shows the distribution.

By region, the states with the highest rates are Rio Grande do Sul (South), Rio de Janeiro (Southeast), the Federal District (Midwest), Ceará (Northeast), and Pará (North). The variability of this distribution may be linked to various factors, from greater employability potential to the quality of postgraduate programs and even the supply of these courses (as in the case of Pará, the only state in the North with a master's and doctorate in Information Science). The state of Rio de Janeiro, where the largest number is concentrated, has three postgraduate programs (Fluminense Federal University - UFF, Federal University of the State of Rio de Janeiro - UNIRIO and Brazilian Institute of Information in Science and Technology/Federal University

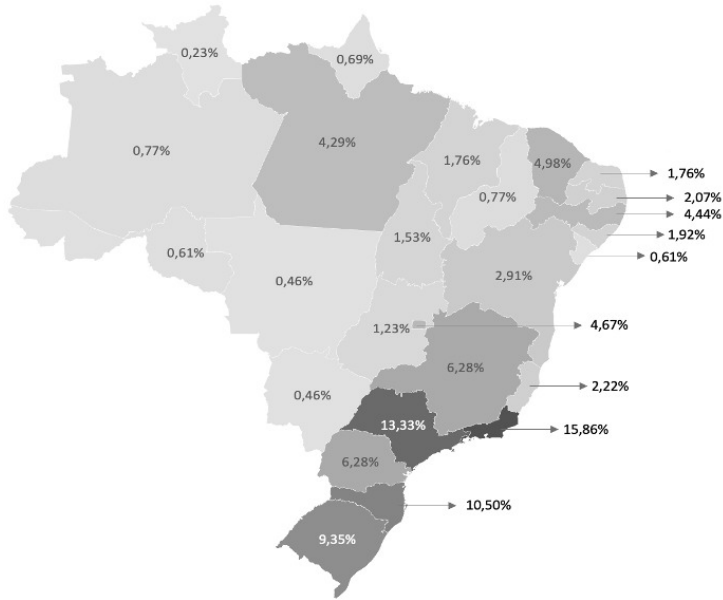


Figure 2. Distribution by state (Source: Prepared by the authors based on data from the Brazilian Library and Information Science Census, 2023).

of Rio de Janeiro - IBICT/UFRJ), including the first to be created in Brazil in 1970, the IBICT (IBICT, 2020).

Regarding family nucleus data, there is a significant number of married people (45.67%) without children (57.70%) living in their own homes (64.60%) with one person (34.71%). These aspects are important because, in a way, they influence the postgraduate student's training path, especially women, who take on the roles of mother and caring for the family (Martins; França, 2022).

3.2 Academic background

The second sphere seeks to identify data relating to the respondents' education since graduation. It determined

who could participate in the Census since the target audience was only people with degrees, licenses, or technical degrees in Library Science, Information Management, and Information Science¹. Of this universe, the maximum degree respondents hold is 45.59% with a completed master's degree, 23.68% with a master's degree in progress, 18.85% with a doctorate, and 11.88% studying for a doctorate. The year of graduation is mainly between 2000 and 2009 (39.62%).

UNIRIO is the university with the highest number of graduates continuing their education at the postgraduate level, at 7.28%. This is in line with Figure 1, which shows the concentration of postgraduate respondents in Rio de Janeiro. The other universities are Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul - UFRGS with 7.13%, Fluminense Federal University - UFF (5.82%), Federal University of Pará - UFPA (5.75%), Federal University of Santa Catarina - UFSC (5.36%), Federal University of Ceará - UFC (5.31%), State University of São Paulo - UNESP (4.98%), Federal University of Minas Gerais - UFMG (4.90%), State University of Santa Catarina - UDESC (4.60%) and University of Brasília - UnB (4.44%). All these universities have master's degree courses in Information Science.

It can be seen that 19.46% of respondents have a degree other than the one indicated in the Census. The most cited courses are Pedagogy, Administration, Literature, Geography, Archivology, Social Sciences and Social Work. As for lato sensu postgraduate degrees, 14.71% indicated that they had one. Regarding the areas of knowledge, the Census adopted the Capes classification (2022) to receive the

1 UFSC has a degree in Information Science. More information at: <https://cinfo.paginas.ufsc.br/>.

Table 1. Areas, institutions, and postgraduate completion period (Source: Brazilian Library and Information Science Census, 2023). **Note:** * Universe of 1,175 people, **Universe of 375 people, ***Acronyms of institutions: UFSC (Federal University of Santa Catarina), UNIRIO (Federal University of State of Rio de Janeiro), USP (University of São Paulo), IBICT (Brazilian Institute of Information on Science and Technology), UnB (University of Brasília), UFMG (Federal University of Minas Gerais), UFF (Fluminense Federal University), UNESP (State University of São Paulo), UFPA (Federal University of Pará), UFRGS (Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul), UFPB (Federal University of Paraíba), UFBA (Federal University of Bahia).

AREAS	MASTER DEGREE*	
	INSTITUTIONS***	YEAR
Applied Social: 69.45%	UFSC: 6.52%	Between 2010 and 2019: 47.70%
Humanities: 21.8%	UNIRIO: 5.35%	Still studying: 19.67%
Linguistics, Letters and Arts: 4.06%	USP: 5.27%	Between 2020 and 2022: 15.90%
Engineering: 2.27%	IBICT: 5.18%	Between 2000 and 2009: 11.80%
Exact and Earth Sciences: 1.13%	UnB: 4.10%	Between 1990 and 1999: 3.51%
Health: 0.97%	UFMG: 3.68%	Between 1980 and 1989: 1.09%
Biology: 0.16%	UFRGS: 3.51%	Between 1970 and 1979: 0.25%
Agriculture: 0.16%	UFF: 3.26%	Before 1970: 0.08%
	UNESP: 3.26%	
	UFPA: 3.01%	

(Continued)

Table 1. Continued

DOCTORATE DEGREE**		
AREAS	INSTITUTIONS***	YEAR
Applied Social: 33.69%	UFSC: 11.2%	Still studying: 38.79%
Humanities: 15.36%	UNESP: 10.93%	Between 2010 and 2019: 32.45%
Linguistics, Literature and Arts: 10.5%	USP: 10.66%	Between 2020 and 2022: 16.89%
Health: 10.34%	UFMG: 10.4%	Between 2000 and 2009: 9.5%
Exact and Earth Sciences: 10.17%	IBICT: 5.06%	Between 1990 and 1999: 1.58%
Engineering: 10.09%	UnB: 5.06%	Before 1970: 0.53%
Agricultural: 9.75%	UFRGS: 4.26%	Between 1980 and 1989: 0.26%
Biology: 0%	UFPB: 3.46%	Between 1970 and 1979: 0%
	UFBA: 3.2%	
	UFF: 2.66%	

Table 2. Use of public policies to get into and stay in graduate school (Source: Brazilian Library and Information Science Census (2023). **Note:** *Social quota for students from the public school system or in socio-economic vulnerability; **National science and technology institutes; ***Student Program - Postgraduate Agreement; ****Studies and Projects Funding; ***** National Fund for Scientific and Technological Development.

	MASTER DEGREE
	ENTRY (quotas)
	PERMANENCE (scholarships)
Not used:	95.15%
Ethnic-racial:	2.51%
Other:	2.09%
Social quota*:	0.17%
People with disabilities:	0.08%
Transgender, transvestite, intersex and non-binary people:	0%
	Did not receive a scholarship: 69.54%
	CAPEs: 17.07%
	Research Support Foundation: 4.27%
	CNPq: 3.6%
	From the company you work for: 3.51%
	Internal university program: 2.51%
	Other: 1.51%
	INCTs**:
	0.08%
	PEC-PG***:
	0.08%
	FINEP****:
	0%
	FNDCT*****:
	0%

(Continued)

Table 2. Continued

DOCTORATE DEGREE	ENTRY (quotas)	PERMANENCE (scholarships)
Not used: 95.51%	Other: 2.9%	Did not receive a scholarship: 63.59%
Ethnic-racial: 1.32%	Social quota*: 0.26%	CAPES: 22.69%
People with disabilities: 0%	Transgender, transvestite, intersex and non-binary people: 0%	Research Support Foundation: 5.28%
		Other: 5.01%
		CNPq: 2.64%
		Internal university program: 1.32%
		From the company you work for: 1.06%
		INCTs**: 0.26%
		PEC-PG***: 0%
		FINEP****: 0%
		FNDCT*****: 0%

responses. Applied Social Sciences accounted for the largest number of respondents in both master's and doctoral programs. Table 1 shows the breakdown.

There is a predominance of Federal University of Santa Catarina - UFSC in both master's and doctoral programs and little change in the rates between areas of knowledge from one level to the next. Among the ten most mentioned universities, the Federal University of State of Rio de Janeiro - UNIRIO and the Federal University of Pará - UFPA are only at master's level, while UFBA and UFPB are at the doctoral level. Public policies, both for entry to postgraduate courses and for remaining on them, are fundamental. Cunha (2017) states that they are built on theoretical and practical models of liberalism, neoliberalism, the welfare state, and socialism based on legal and ethical aspects.

Regarding continuing their studies, 10.55% of the respondents did a post-doctoral internship in the Applied Social Sciences and 2.64% in the Human Sciences. Among the most cited institutions are the State University of São Paulo - UNESP (with nine mentions), followed by the University of Brasília - UnB and Universidad Carlos III de Madrid (4 each) and Fluminense Federal University - UFF (with 3). In addition to the teaching provided by the course, international training enables postgraduates to build and strengthen networks, exchange knowledge, internationalize their university of origin, and the intercultural richness of this experience (Andrade-Duvernoy et al., 2018). Even with the scholarships and programs on offer, international training, whether partial or complete, is not a reality for most respondents (89.83%). Of those who had this experience, 3.36% completed a sandwich doctorate, 2.64% a full master's degree, 1.84% a full doctorate,

0.88% a post-doctorate, 0.64% part of their undergraduate degree, 0.56% part of their specialization, 0.56% a sandwich master's degree, 0.4% a full undergraduate degree and 0.24% an entire specialization.

3.3 Professional activities

The last section of the Census presents data on professional activity. Postgraduates and undergraduates answered when asked how long they had been working in Library and Information Science, as shown in Figure 3.

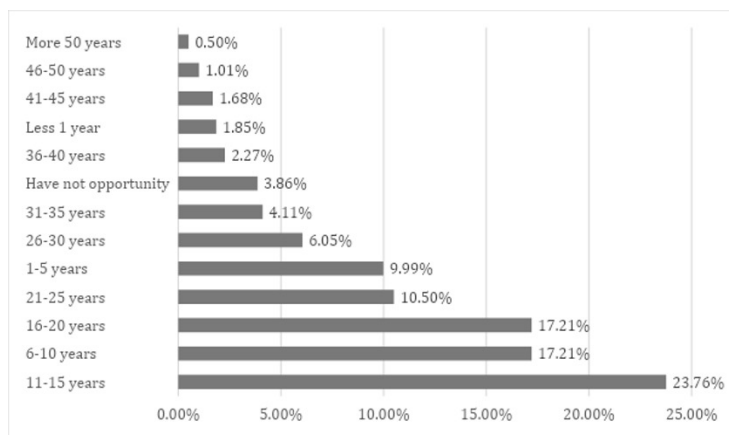


Figure 3. Time working in Library and Information Science (Source: Brazilian Library and Information Science Census, 2023).

Most of these periods of experience were spent on public tenders (42.15%), followed by CLT (29.39%) and internships with subsequent employment (15.28%). There is also participation in consultancy/advisory activities (3.69%) and entrepreneurship (1.01%). When asked about their current employment situation, it is not clear that there has been a significant change compared to the

beginning since 50.71% are working at a federal public institution. In Table 4, we explore this data further, relating it to the latest gross salaries and working hours.

Table 4. Employment status and last gross salary of graduate and postgraduate students in Library and Information Science (Source: Brazilian Library and Information Science Census, 2023).

EMPLOYMENT STATUS	LAST GROSS SALARY IN THE AREA
50.71% in a federal public institution	18.05% above R\$10,454.00
12.17% in a private institution	10.5% between R\$9,408.00 and R\$10,453.00
11.59% in state public institutions	10.41% between R\$6.271,00 and R\$7.315,00
6.8% as lecturers at a federal HEI	9.91% between R\$5.226,00 and R\$6.270,00
5.29% are unemployed	9.57% between R\$7,316.00 and R\$8,361.00
5.04% as an entrepreneur/consultant/advisor	9.49% between R\$8.362,00 and R\$9.407,00
4.45% in a municipal public institution	7.72% between R\$4,181.00 and R\$5,225.00
3.78% other situation	7.14% between R\$3,136.00 and R\$4,180.00
2.6% working outside the field	5.96% between R\$2,091.00 and R\$3,135.00
1.93% retired	5.12% have never worked in the area

(Continued)

Table 4. Continued

EMPLOYMENT STATUS	LAST GROSS SALARY IN THE AREA		
1.76% teaching at a state HEI	4.2% between R\$1,046.00 and R\$2,090.00		
1.18% teaching at a private HEI	1.93% up to one minimum wage		
1.01% in the third sector/NGO			
0.5% in a mixed/parastatal institution			
HOURS			
63.48% with 40h	14.78% with 30h	5.46% with 44h	2.94% with 20h
1.6% with an undefined workload	1.26% less than 20h	0.59% with 25h	

Although we are not surprised to find that most respondents are working in federal public institutions with a 40-hour workload, we can identify a salary reality (above R\$10,454.00) that is quite different from the national average (between R\$3,136.00 and R\$4,180.00). From this categorization of employment status, we can identify work specifically in the so-called traditional information environments in the area, such as libraries, museums, archives, documentation, and research centers. There is a large dilution of responses, as shown in Table 5.

Recognizing that professional activities can also include contributions to the development of the area itself, the Census questioned participation in class entities (academic groups, associations, unions, and councils) to strengthen it. In Brazil, this structure is established by

Table 5. Working in information environments
 (Source: Brazilian Library and Information
 Science Census, 2023).

TPOLOGY	RATES
Public HEI university library	37.45%
Does not work in a traditional information environment	19.9%
Specialized library	10.16%
Federal Institute library	9.07%
Other	7.14%
Private HEI university library	6.38%
Private school library	4.28%
Municipal public library	2.77%
Archives	2.27%
State public library	1.68%
Documentation center	1.6%
Research center or institute	1.43%
Federal public school library	1.34%
Research center or institute library	1.18%
State public school library	1.09%
Community library	1.01%
Memory center	1.01%
Municipal public school library	0.92%
Museum	0.92%
Cultural center	0.84%
National library	0.42%
Prison library	0.08%

FEABAB (which includes 17 associations of librarians), the CFB/CRB system (which operates regionally by jurisdiction), and the unions (which may or may not be linked to others at state, federal, or professional level in a particular class, such as education workers' unions).

As for associations, 17.8% worked in academic groups/centers during their undergraduate studies, 11% in the state librarians' association, 3.69% in FEBAB (which includes its Working Groups and Commissions), and 3.4% in the union. However, 70.45% have never been involved in these groups, which reflects the rate of 71.54% of respondents who have never joined any of the Associations or FEBAB itself. As for the regulatory bodies, the Councils (Federal and Regional), the lack of participation is even greater, at 84.5%. Of those who have worked, 13.5% have worked for the Regional Councils, 0.76% for the Federal Council, and 1.34% for both.

Finally, the Census sought to find out about contact in academic training and professional practice with groups related to the following agendas: ethnic-racial, human rights, and LGBT+ (Figure 4). We grouped this data from

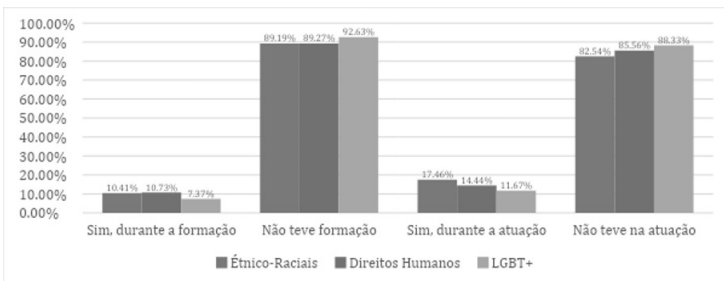


Figure 4. Contact in training and working with groups dedicated to ethnic-racial, LGBT+, and human rights issues (Source: Brazilian Library and Information Science Census, 2023).

two different spheres to demonstrate the evolution or otherwise of the rates presented. Information Science has sought to get closer to these issues since information can be considered an important tool for social protagonists (Gomes, 2017).

The alarming rates demonstrate the lack of contact with the groups. The university environment, where individuals are trained and built up and will later have to deal with different realities and information needs, has fallen short in promoting this access. It can also be seen that even if not very significantly, the rates improve when contact is established in professional practice. Of the three agendas, LGBT+ is the most affected.

4. CLOSING REMARKS

The research showed that the predominant profile of people trained in Library and Information Science who continue, or have continued, their training at master's and doctoral level is made up of white, married cisgender women, concentrated mainly in the state of Rio de Janeiro, between 36 and 40 years old. The majority only have a master's degree in Applied Social Sciences, completed between 2010 and 2019, and have not used public policies for entry or permanence.

In parallel to their studies, this predominant group has been working professionally in the area for between 11 and 15 years, entering via public examination in university libraries of federal public higher education institutions, earning over R\$10,454.00. Participation in professional bodies, such as associations and councils, is inexpressive since the average is 77% of respondents who have never been active. Regarding the institutions, we can highlight

the Federal University of Santa Catarina (UFSC) performance, which has the highest number of respondents, even with a relatively new postgraduate program². The Federal University of the State of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ) has the highest number of graduates continuing their studies at master's and doctoral levels. The possibilities open data offers for the development of research and the creation of public policies are countless. With the diversity of existing filters, the Census of Brazilian Library and Information Science can provide an overview of socio-economic realities, professional performance in information environments, postgraduate policies use, and historical series analysis.

Our research achieved its objective in that it was able to highlight data on socio-economic profiles, academic training, and professional performance in Library and Information Science. We hope that other studies using the Census data panel as a source of investigation can be developed so that the government, universities, professional associations, and companies know and recognize the areas.

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2 Available at: <https://pgcin.ufsc.br/objetivo/>.

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