

**The Process of Consolidation of Information Science in Brazil:  
The Concrete Reality Expressed by Scientific Institutions**

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**MA Dissertation**

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This study describes the process of consolidation of information science (IC) in Brazil, in a diachronic perspective. It refers to the theoretical area of history of science and epistemology in order to understand the fundamentals of IC, as well as the influence that the general historic development of science had on the epistemological development of IC. It evokes the concept of scientific institutionalization as part of the process of consolidation of IC, including both the cognitive and social aspects of the institutions. It identifies cognitive institutionalization in relation to the theoretical and epistemological foundations of science where concepts, theories and methods are treated as institutions. It analyzes social institutionalization in relation to the supporting structures of science. It considers as social institutions scientific publications, scientific societies, schools, research groups and scientific events. It appraises and analyzes the conceptions described above as applied to the scientific field of IC, aiming to distinguish the evolution of its cognitive and social dimensions. As for the cognitive dimension of IC, analysis is based on the available scientific literature in areas such as epistemology and cognitive history of IC. Regarding the social dimension, it focuses on issues such as the history of national and international social institutions. Aiming at validating the ideas found in the literature, it turns to the empirical benchmark to raise, collect, represent, analyze and interpret data representing the evolution of IC in Brazil, by applying the scientometric method. Such data refer to: the quantity of scientific publications on IC in the country, the quantity of scientific articles, books and collections of works published abroad by Brazilian scientists along time, the evolution of scientific organizations as to their purposes, projects and activities, the development of undergraduate courses related to the area of IC regarding their number, distribution by region (Central-west, North, Northeast, South, Southeast), distribution by type of institution (federal, state, private universities), post-graduate programs in the area of CI, number of graduates and professors, number and distribution by region and type of institution, provenance area of expertise of the professors, all in order to evaluate the degree of interdisciplinarity in the academic environment. Further data include the development of research groups and their number, members, lines of research, distribution by institution, type of institution and region; trajectory of the major events in the area including the amount of papers presented and their main themes.

**Keywords:**

Information Science; Institutionalization of science