



Assessing International Scholarly Exchange in Haiti

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BACKGROUND

After the 2010 earthquake, the need to support higher education and research in Haiti was emphasized. In response, international opportunities for academic collaboration and capacity building were offered, but many barriers that impede Haitians from taking part in these activities were not addressed. **The purpose of this study was to determine what services will improve future scholarly exchange efforts.**

METHODS

71 Haitian exchange alumni were selected using snowball sampling. Over nine weeks, the panelists:

- completed a multi-round, mixed-mode Delphi survey;
- identified and ranked scholarly exchange services; and
- received rapid analysis of results after each round.

In addition, Kendall's Coefficient of Concordance (W) was calculated to interpret consensus on rankings.



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WHAT SERVICES DO YOU NEED?

"...language centers in Haitian universities."

"...an international education office that sends information."

"...financial loans for students to study overseas."

RESULTS

Round 1: A brainstorming exercise identified thirty service areas.

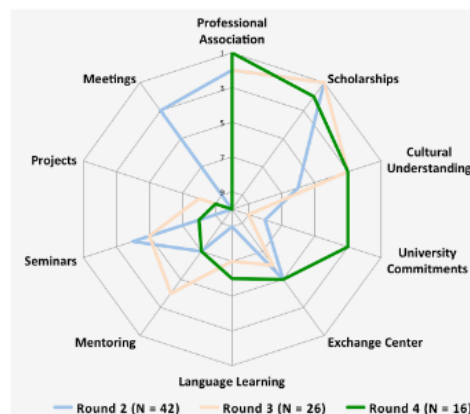
Round 2: Service areas selected by a simple majority pared the list to ten.

Rounds 3 & 4: Ranking between 1 (highest) and 10 revealed very weak agreement among panelists.

Due to declining response rates, the survey was discontinued.

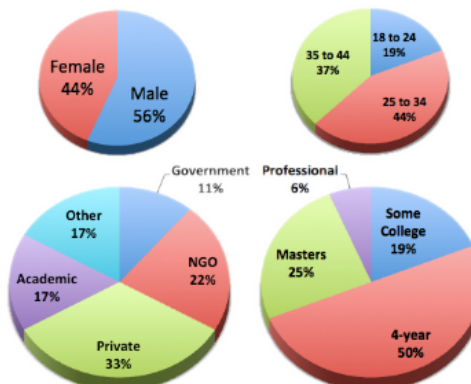
Round 3 Ranking Results

Service Areas	Mean	% Top ½	Δ
1. Scholarships	4.04	65.4	≡
2. Establish Professional Networks / Associations	4.15	65.4	≡
3. Cultural Understanding	4.81	57.7	↑
4. Mentoring	5.65	50.0	↑
5. Seminars	5.69	50.0	↓
6. Establish Exchange Center / Committee	5.69	46.2	↓
7. Language Learning	5.85	50.0	↑
8. Projects	6.15	42.3	↑
9. Commitment from Universities	6.23	38.5	↓
10. Meetings / Conferences	6.73	34.6	↓
≡ no change from previous round $W = .09$ $\chi^2 = 20.2$			



Radar Diagrams of Rankings by Mean

Round 4 Panel Demographic Data: Sex, Age, Profession, and Education



CONCLUSION

Prior to the survey, no validated list was available for understanding the services needed to facilitate scholarly exchange in Haiti. Although little confidence can be placed in the final rankings, the method was rigorous and the results:

- show panelists agreed that a few services are most important;
- provide a checklist for developing robust exchange programs; and
- establish a baseline for research on changes in perception.

FUTURE RESEARCH

To broaden the view of scholarly exchange services, subsequent studies should:

- examine the vantage point of other stakeholders;
- investigate how services are managed; and
- generate lists from other countries.

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