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Selecting Undergraduate Students as Library Research Subjects from a Diversity Perspective

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WHY ARE WE RESEARCHING THIS?

Detailed information about qualitative aspects of learning practices and deeper knowledge about student needs is necessary to understand and promote a more implicated role of libraries in undergraduate student learning.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY IN UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION?

Listening the voices of diverse students from two private universities in Mexico

HOW TO ANSWER THE QUESTION IN A FIRST QUALITATIVE PHASE?

- OBJECTIVE 1: Identify the diversity of undergraduate students
- OBJECTIVE 2: Identify the services and collections in each library
- OBJECTIVE 3: Analyze what students say about their educational experience as undergraduates

Research discussions to distinguish demographic data from qualitative markers

IBERO University Mexico City, MX

ITESO University Guadalajara, MX

INPUTS

- Universities’ diversity policies
- Pilot phase interviews with students
- Researchers and professors assumptions and experiences

Diversity markers

FIRST PHASE RESULTS FOR OBJECTIVE 1

- Students who participate in academic exchange
- Students of two different programs
- With learning problems
- Outstanding students
- Field of study
- Students who pause between periods

- Students from other parts of Mexico
- Foreign students
- Indigenous students
- Speakers of different languages
- Mexican-American migrants

- Maried
- With children
- With siblings in the university
- With parents in their field of study

- With a particular condition
- With a physical disability
- In risk situation (e.g. substance abuse)

- Religions
- LGBTQ+ Community
- Scholarships holders
- Students in University Credit
- Socio-economic conditions
- Morning, evening or mixed schedule
- Residents of different areas

- Athletes
- Social/political activists
- Artists
- Employed outside the University
- Employed within the University
- Scholarship holders working as interns

WHAT'S NEXT?

These markers will allow the research team to select students for individual and collective interviews in order to listen and analyze the variety of undergraduate voices from a diversity perspective.

In a second phase of the project, a quantitative approach will allow the contrast with initial qualitative data.