

Per un'internazionalizzazione dell'insegnamento in biblioteconomia

**12 marzo 2010
Milano Palazzo delle Stelline
Sala BRAMANTE
h. 9.30-13.00**

Thinking Beyond Borders: motivations to attend an international Masters' course

Elena Corradini

Milano, Palazzo delle Stelline, 12 marzo 2010

Making the point on an international course

Parma University and Northumbria University

International Master Course in Information and
Communication Studies – Distance learning

*(Master internazionale a distanza in
Scienze dell'Informazione e della Comunicazione)*

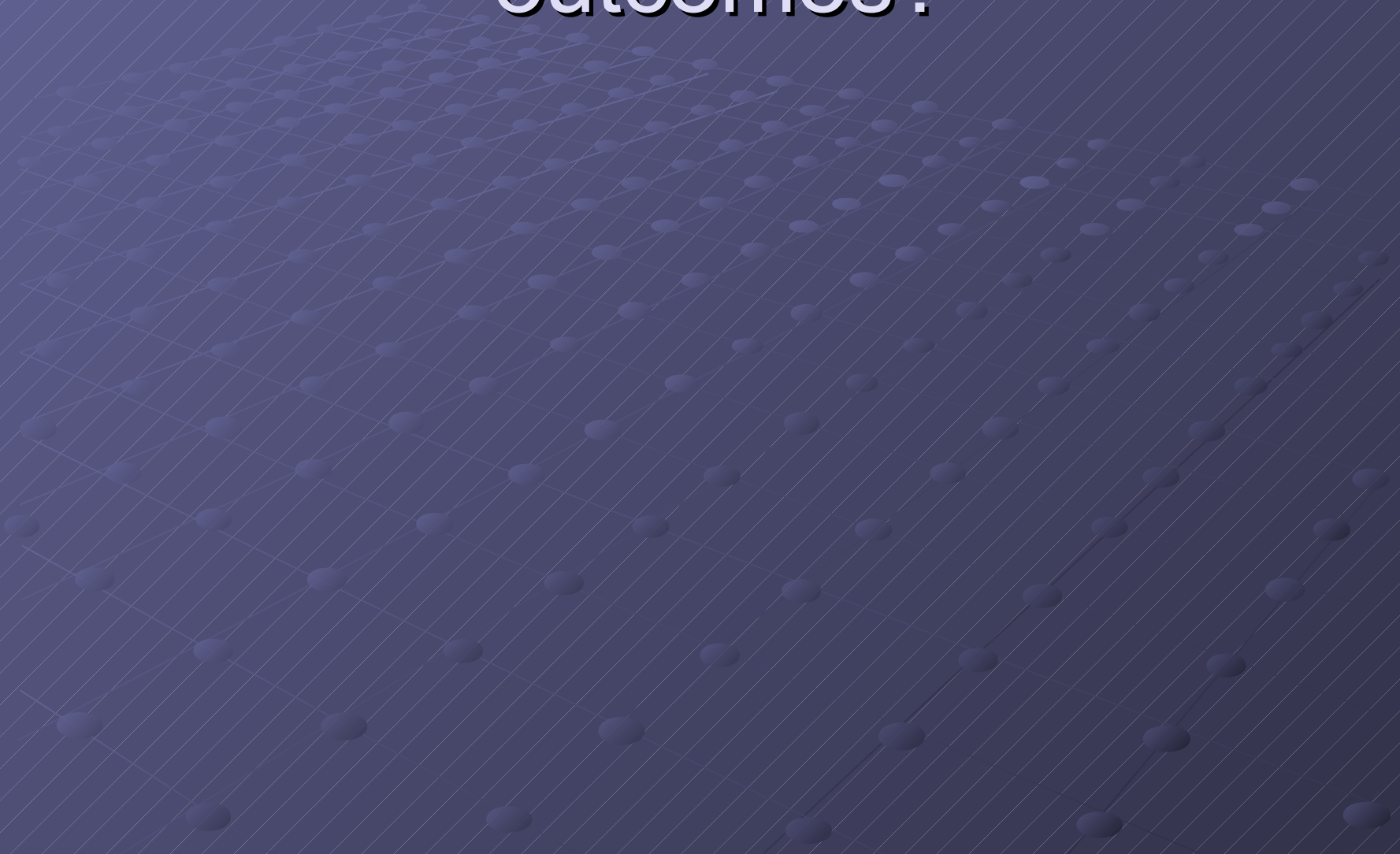
FORMERLY:

International Master Course in Information Studies – DL

*(Master internazionale a distanza in Biblioteconomia e scienze
dell'informazione)*

EDITIONS: 2001, 2003, 2004, 2006

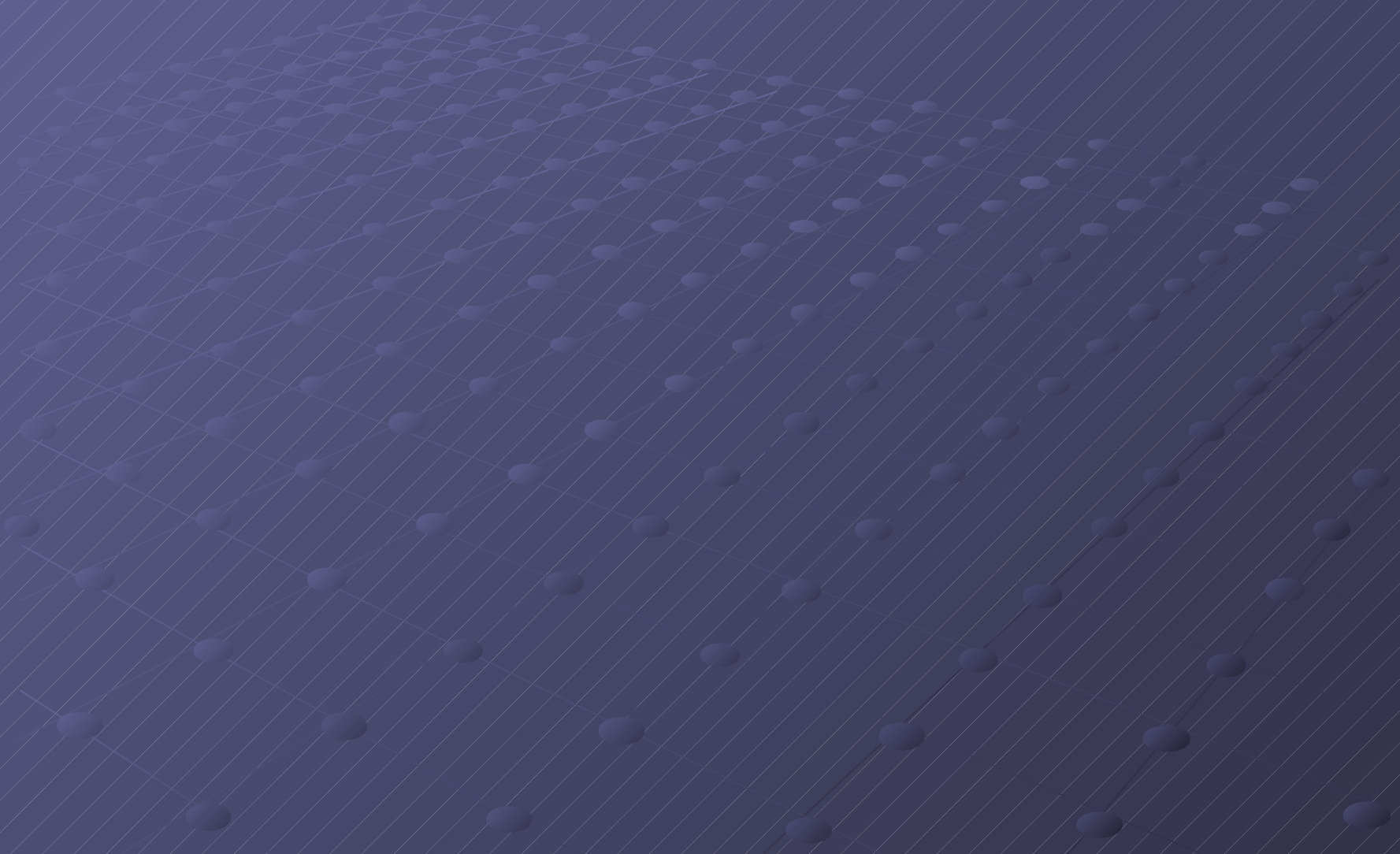
Which were the learning
outcomes?



Learning Outcomes (stated)

- 1. to be able to critically reflect on our work;
- 2. to be aware of users' needs in a changing society;
- 3. to be able to sustain a vital role for libraries in the Information Society;
- 4. to learn to manage effectively all available resources (people, technologies, budget) inside a learning organisation concept;
- 5. to be able to support long life learning in a dependable and flexible way.

Taught courses



Modules (2006)

YEAR 1:

- The Electronic and Digital Environment (15 ECTS)
- Cultural Heritage and Management of a Digitization Project (15 ECTS)
- Knowledge Organisation (15 ECTS)
- Independent Study in the Field of Information Sciences (15 ECTS)

YEAR 2:

- Development of a users' centered project (15 ECS)
- Libraries and Learning (15 ECTS)
- Dissertation (30 ECTS)

Why a questionnaire?

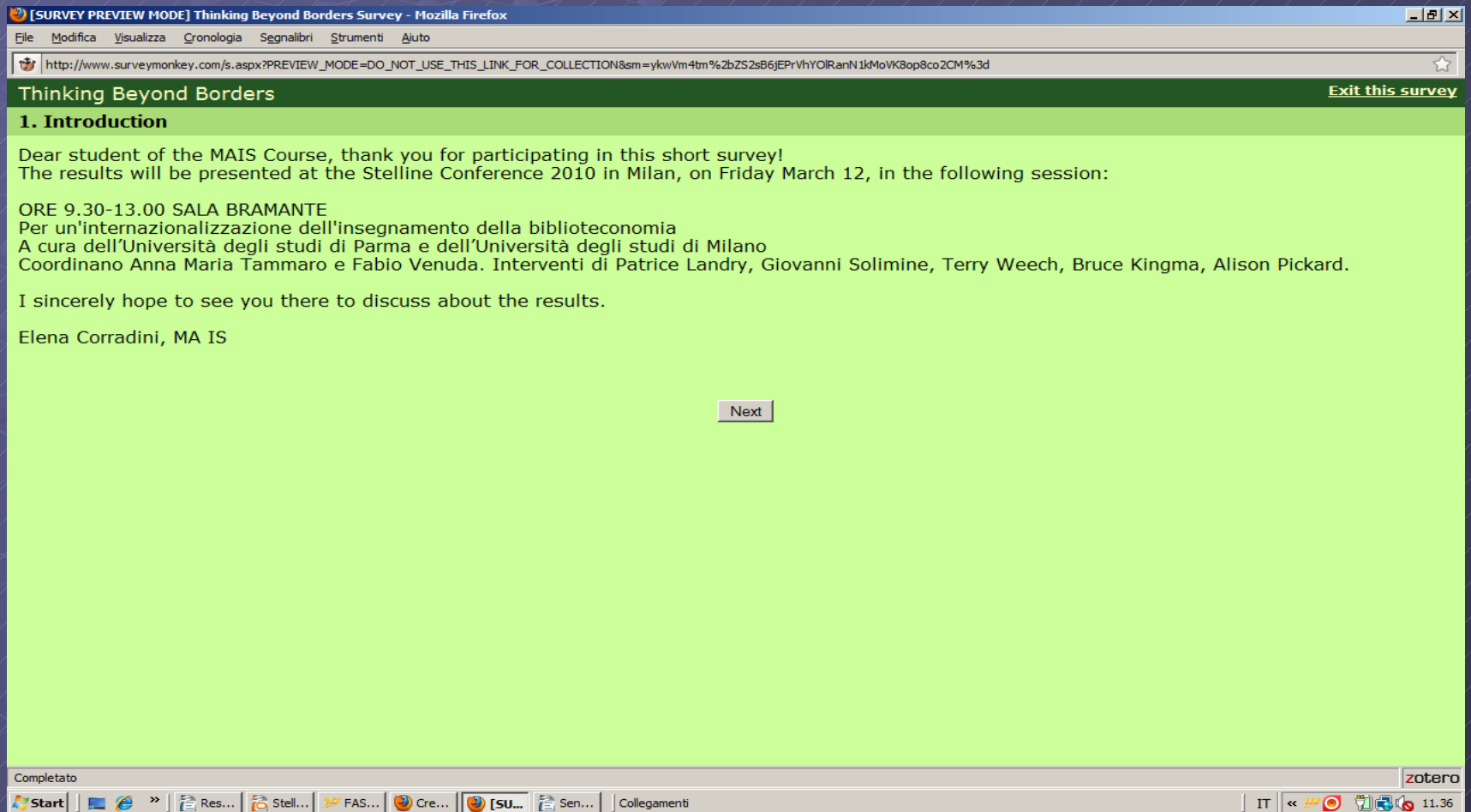
to know about...

- motivations in attending the course
- satisfaction regarding the choice
- perceived outcomes

Asking for feedback

- * planning the questionnaire
- * getting the questionnaire ready
- * deciding how to reach students
- * contacting former students, through email
- * letting them time to answer
- ...

Thinking Beyond Borders: trying to catch the attention of former students to gain feedback



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the title "[SURVEY PREVIEW MODE] Thinking Beyond Borders Survey - Mozilla Firefox". The address bar contains the URL: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?PREVIEW_MODE=DO_NOT_USE_THIS_LINK_FOR_COLLECTION&sm=ykwVtm4tm%2bZS2sB6jEPrVhYOIRanN1kMoVK8op8co2CM%3d. The page content is as follows:

Thinking Beyond Borders [Exit this survey](#)

1. Introduction

Dear student of the MAIS Course, thank you for participating in this short survey!
The results will be presented at the Stelline Conference 2010 in Milan, on Friday March 12, in the following session:

ORE 9.30-13.00 SALA BRAMANTE
Per un'internazionalizzazione dell'insegnamento della biblioteconomia
A cura dell'Università degli studi di Parma e dell'Università degli studi di Milano
Coordiano Anna Maria Tamaro e Fabio Venuda. Interventi di Patrice Landry, Giovanni Solimine, Terry Weech, Bruce Kingma, Alison Pickard.

I sincerely hope to see you there to discuss about the results.

Elena Corradini, MA IS

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Completato zotero

Start | Res... | Stell... | FAS... | Cre... | [SU... | Sen... | Collegamenti | IT | 11,36

Making it easy for participants to answer questions

[SURVEY PREVIEW MODE] Thinking Beyond Borders Survey - Mozilla Firefox

File Modifica Visualizza Cronologia Segnalibri Strumenti Aiuto

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?PREVIEW_MODE=DO_NOT_USE_THIS_LINK_FOR_COLLECTION&sm=ykwWm4tm%2bZS2sB6jEPrVhYOIRanN1kMoVK8op8co2CM%3d

Thinking Beyond Borders [Exit this survey](#)

2. Default Section

1. You have enrolled in an international course. Which was your initial motivation supporting this choice?

2. Were you satisfied with your choice?

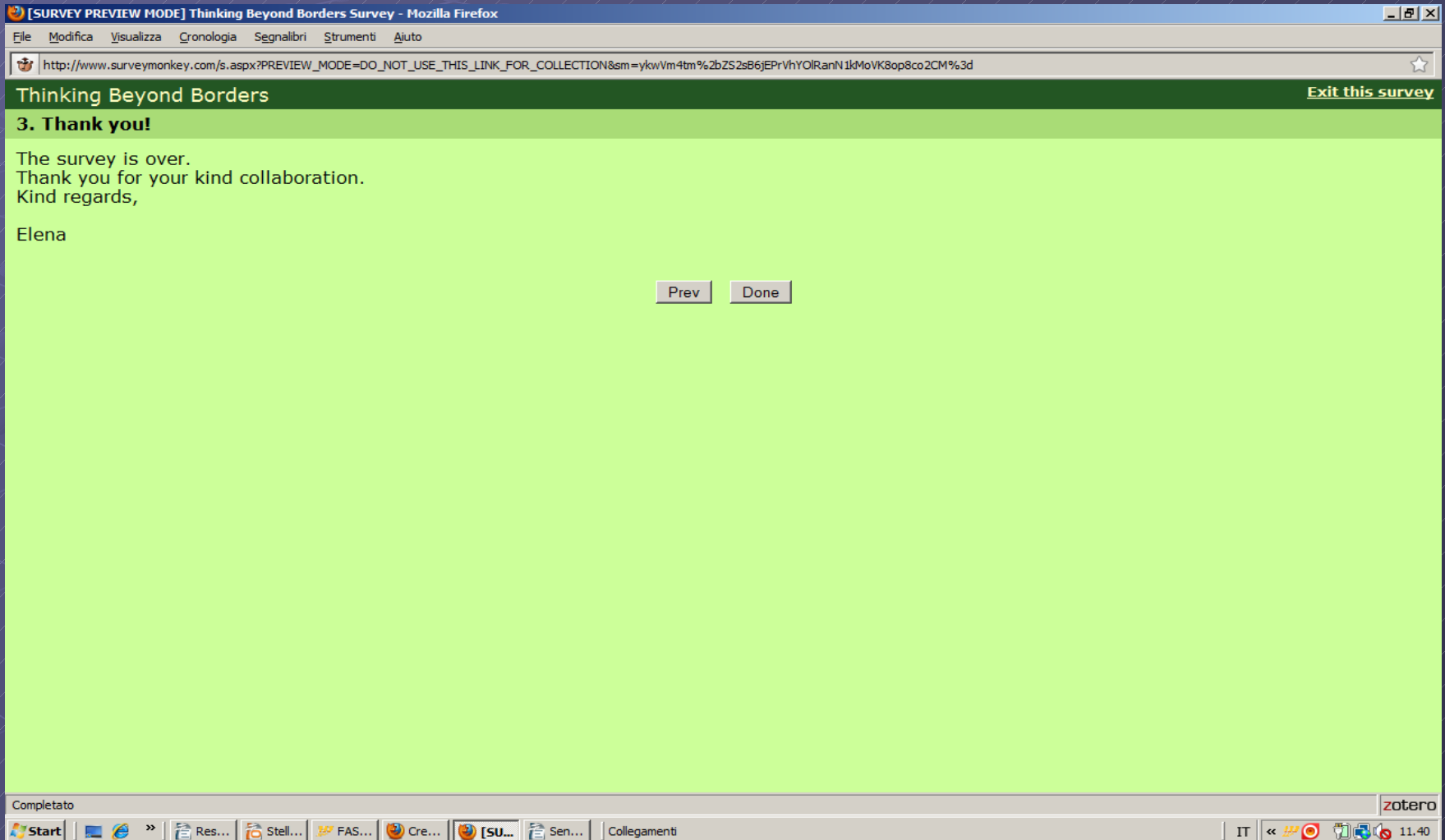
3. Which outcomes (in terms of knowledge, behaviour, skills) have you had from the MAIS Course?

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Thanking participants for their support



Respondents

- Number of former students: 60
- Number of graduated students: 50
- Contacts: 25
- Respondents: 13
- Response rate (contacts/respondents): 52%

Question 1:

You have enrolled in an international course. Which was your initial motivation supporting this choice?

- Improvement of professional skills...
- Career advancement...
- Improvement of working methods...
- Studying with an international approach...
- Acquiring new competences...
- Improvement of English as working language...
- ...while continuing working

Question 2: Were you satisfied with your choice?

● Yes (13/13)

● “Yes: it was **an enriching experience** from the professional as well as personal point of view. Having teachers with an **Anglosaxon approach** was **very difficult** at the beginning, but it was **really interesting**. To have the possibility to attend the course and the Campus in the UK was a fantastic experience, as well as sharing this adventure with other people. Despite being a distance-learning course, the group of student was a real support during the study periods.” (Q2a9)

● “Yes, the course was **very interesting**, allowed me to know other people in my field, and most of all **to acquire a kind of knowledge which is not really spread in Italy.**” (Q2a3)

Question 3:

Which outcomes (in terms of knowledge, behaviour, skills) have you had from the MAIS Course?

“Many outcomes” (Q3a7)

- SKILLS
- KNOWLEDGE
- ATTITUDES
- BEHAVIOUR

Answers to Q3 - 1

● “The most evident outcome is the **improvement of my language skills**, especially applied to library science (very useful to find a job abroad). I became more familiar with the **English professional literature and sources**, enhanced my **search methods** and got to know better the **"scientific approach" to the discipline**, something I had never encountered in Italy. Moreover, my curriculum got an **"International flavour"** that is interesting in the job market.” (Q3a9)

Answers to Q3 - 2

“ I believe I have acquired a **good background in research methods**, I learnt how to **prepare a project** and how to deal with some important aspects of our profession (**information literacy** for instance); I also learnt a lot from my teachers, in terms of "**how to teach**". I also found it very fruitful to study with other people and to **work in group** during the study schools” (Q3a13)

Answers to Q3 - 3

☛ Respondents also stated to have acquired:

- **Awareness of the profession**

- ☛ International approach

- ☛ Different positions in LIS around the world

- **Managerial skills**

- ☛ Time management

- ☛ Human resources management

- ☛ Teamwork

- **Learning / Teaching skills**

- ☛ Searching skills: databases, electronic resources

- ☛ Research projects (timeline, schedule, ...)

- ☛ Skills related to (foreign) language use

Comparing results...

■ ...with stated learning outcomes:

- 1. critical thinking
- 2. awareness of users' needs in a changing society;
- 3. to be able to sustain a vital role for libraries in the Information Society;
- 4. management of all available resources (people, technologies, budget) inside a learning organisation concept;
- 5. to be able to support long life learning in a dependable and flexible way.

What about the other stated outcomes?

- In part, implicitly stated in the answers...
 - “...I think I have **changed my attitude** towards my job but mostly towards people (**users and colleagues**)...” (Q2a10)
 - “...the course was very interesting, allowed me to know other people in my field, and most of all to **acquire a kind of knowledge which is not really spread in Italy.**” (Q2a3)

Other achieved results

- 3 out of the 25 contacts got an international post after completing the Master: 2 of them at the EU Parliament (Bruxelles), 1 at the FAO in Rome
- Many of the former students improved their job position
- Many of the former students participate in the discussion about LIS “hot topics” at international level, in arenas like peer-reviewed journals, international conferences, etc.
- Some of them have enrolled in international PhD courses

Last but not least...

All former students of the international course
can use English as a working language...

...for research

...in their daily job activities

...for their life long education!

This has been expressed like this:

**“To learn a methodology and to learn it in English,
with double advantage!” (Q1a6)**

Thank you for your attention.

Elena Corradini, MA/MSc IS
Biblioteca comunale di Ala (TN), Italy

Contacts:

elena.corradini@biblio.infotn.it

ecorradini67@gmail.com

Skype: [elena.corradini67](https://www.skype.com/people/elena.corradini67)