

Analysis of Topic and Competency Area for Continuing Education of the Taiwan MLC annual meetings: a 35 years overview (1979-2013)

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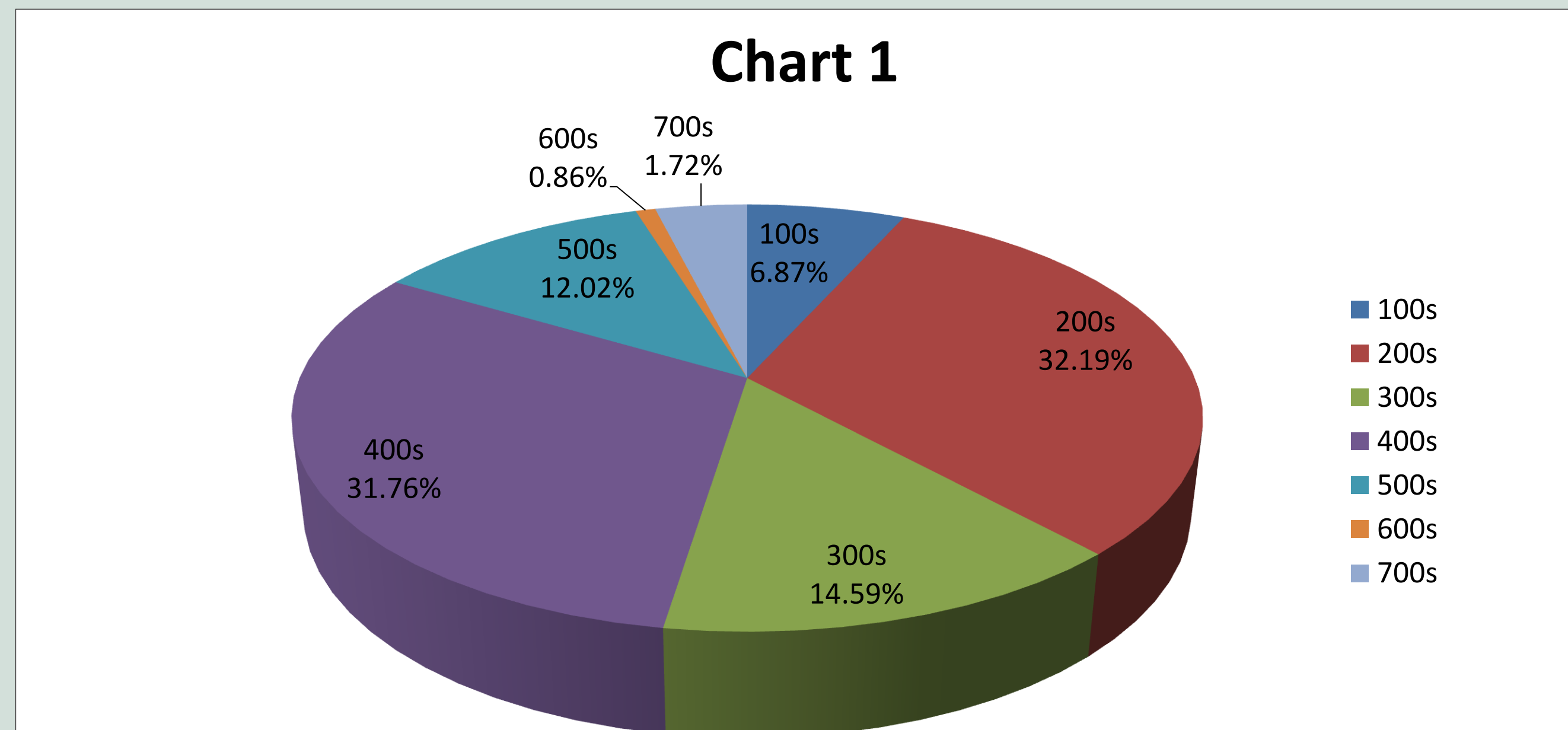
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Objectives

The MLCLAROC(Taiwan) was established in 1978 and held a 2-day annual meeting from 1979, inviting scholars/experts to have speeches in hot topics of the year. Since then, the MLC annual meeting has been the most important continuing education events for medical librarians in Taiwan. The author analyzed titles of 35-year speeches, trying to present their distribution of topics and competency areas.

Findings

The most popular topics in the 35 year period are: "Application of IT", "EBM/EBN", "Database introduction and searching", "Public relation and marketing" and "Library evaluation and assessment" accordingly. (see Table 1)
 As to the competency areas, the distribution is very unbalanced: 32.19% of the courses are in the area of "200s Leadership and Management" and 31.76% are in "400s Health Sciences Resource Management". Followed by the areas of "300s Health Sciences Information Services", "500s Information Systems and Technology" and "100s Health Sciences Environment and Information Polices". However, there were only 2 courses in the area of "600s Curriculum Design and Instruction". (see Table 2) (see Chart 1-8)



Topic	Year	Count
Application of IT	1989,1990,1991,1992,1993,1994,1995,2010,2011,2012,2013	11
EBM/EBN	2003,2004,2005,2006,2007,2008,2009,2010,2011,2012	10
Database introduction and searching	1979,1980,1981,1985,1990,1998,2006,2007,2010	9
Public relation and marketing	1992,1994,1995,1999,2001,2006,2009,2012,2013	9
Library evaluation and assessment	1991,1998,2004,2005,2007,2012(3),2013	9
Architecture and spatial planning	1993,1994,1996,2004,2009,2010,2011,2012	8
Human resources (including continuing education for library staff)	1997,2005,2008,2010,2011,2012,2013	7
Library administration	1985,2007,2008,2009,2010,2011,2012	7
Classification and cataloging	1979,1980,1981,1982,1983,1987,1996	7
Library automation	1984,1986,1987,1990,1991,2000,2007	7
Internet resources	1995,1996,1998,1999,2000,2005,2007	7
e-journals	2000,2001,2002,2003,2004,2007,2010	7
Serial management	1979,1982,1984,1987,1993,2002	6

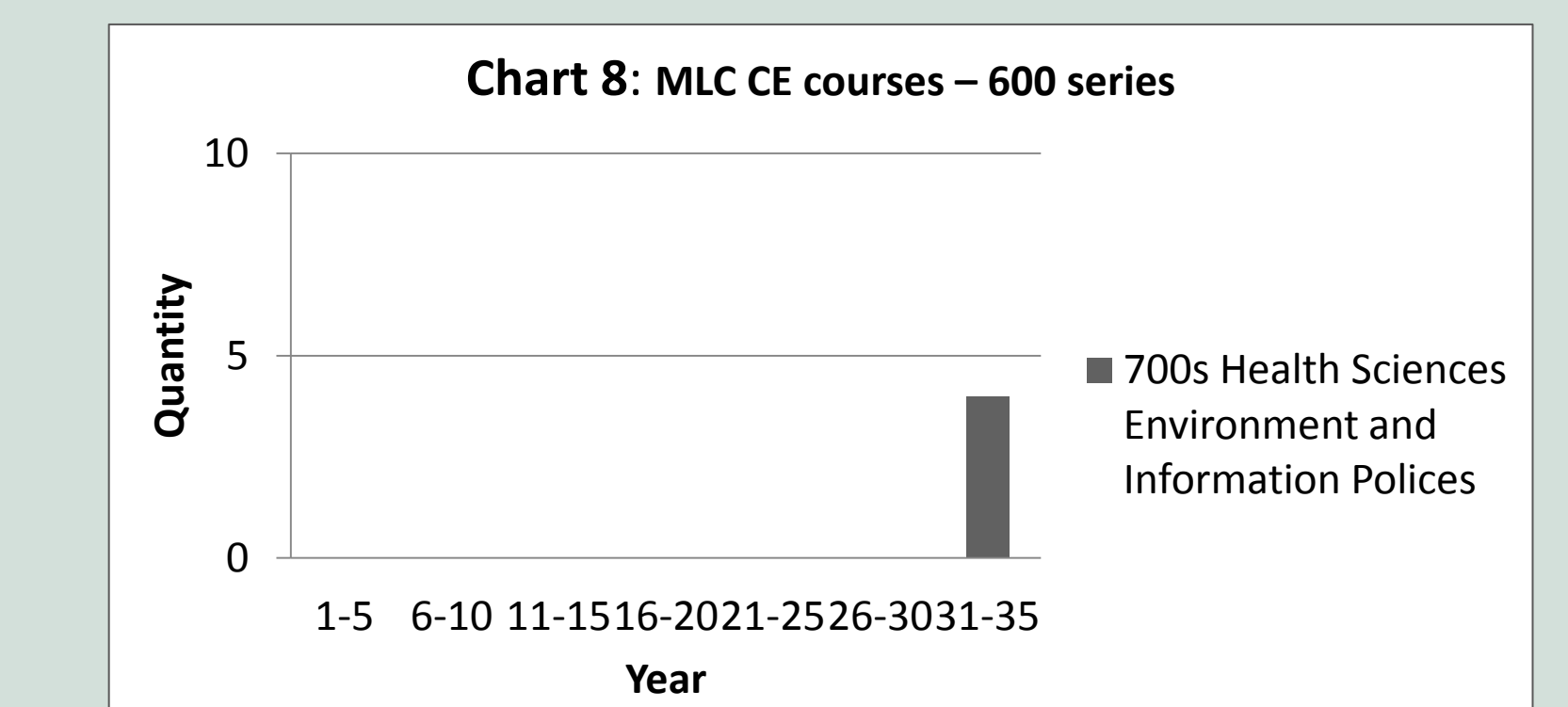
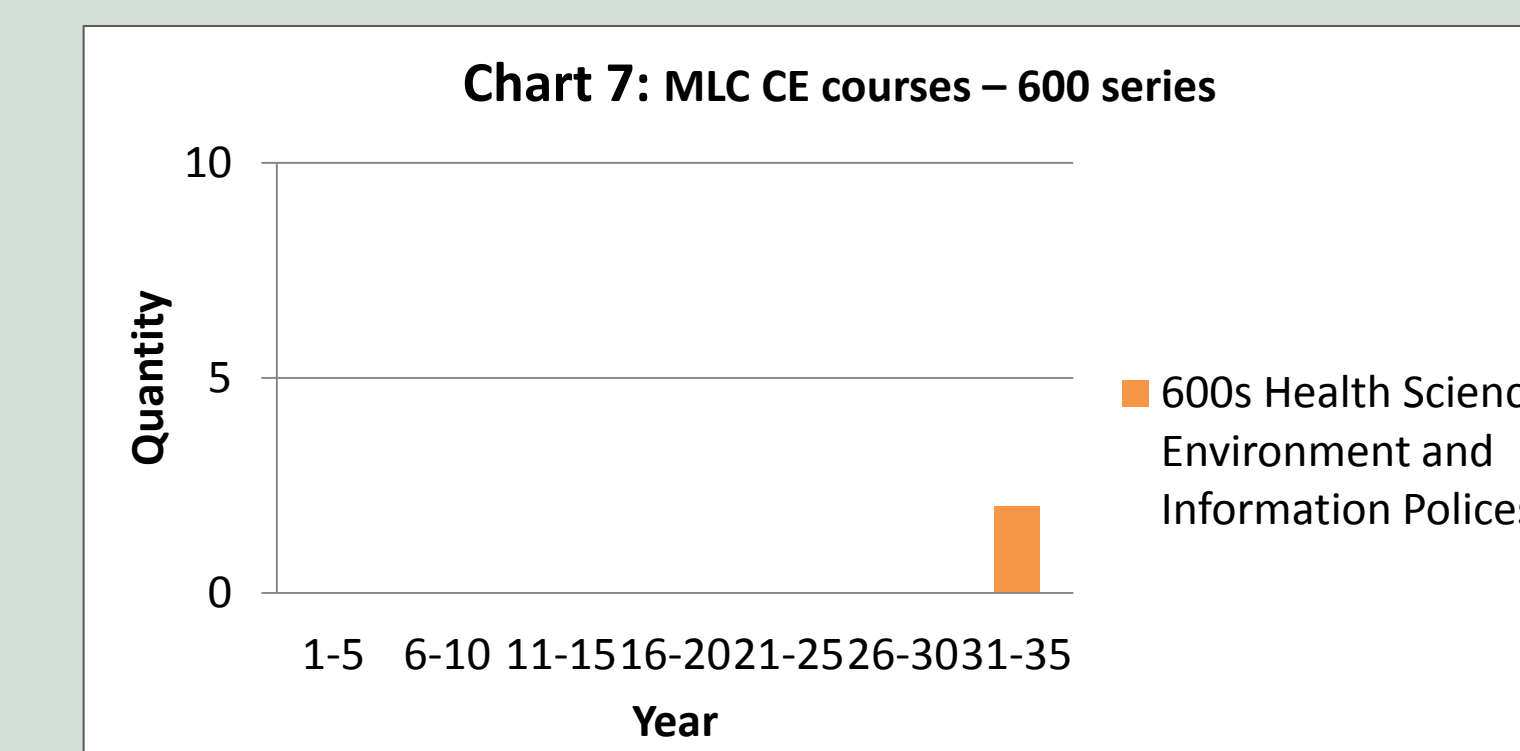
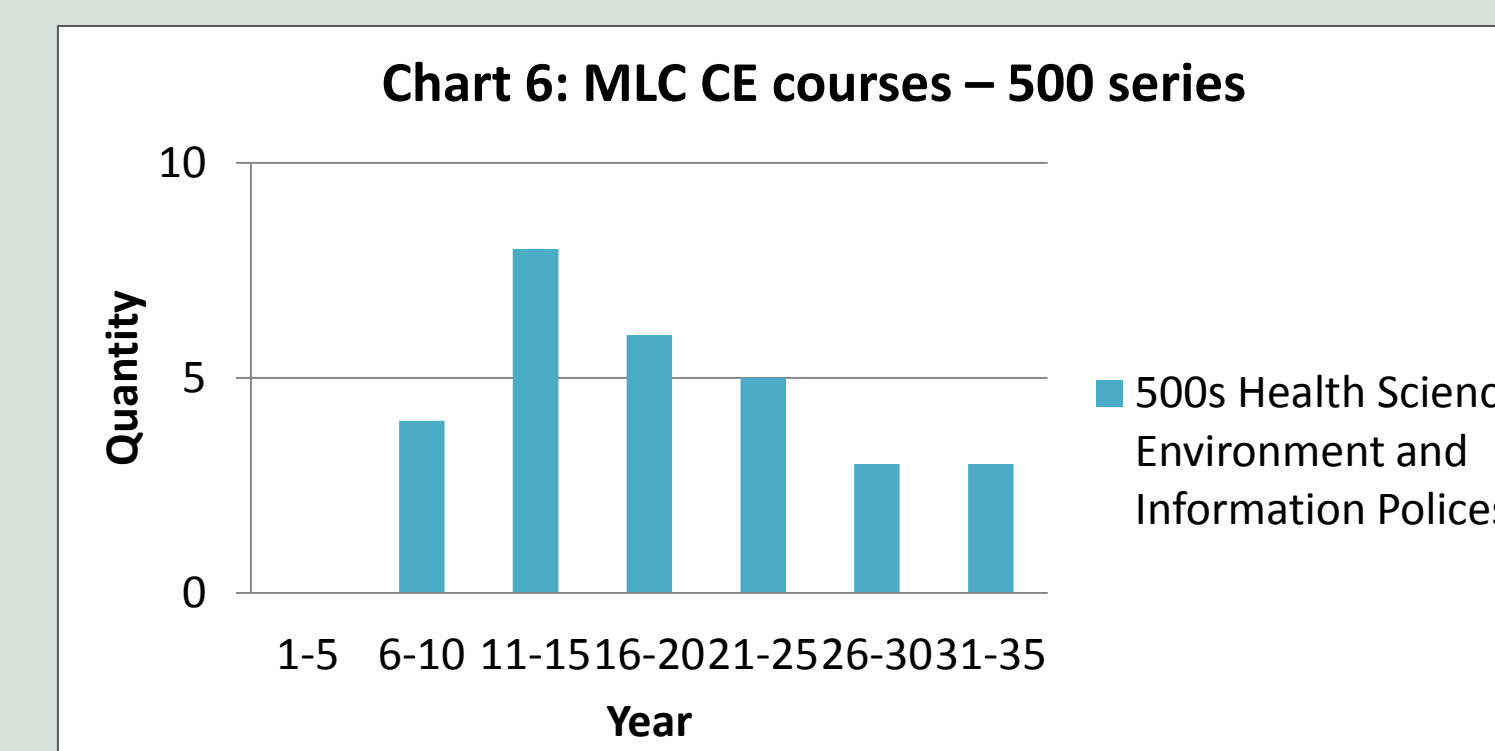
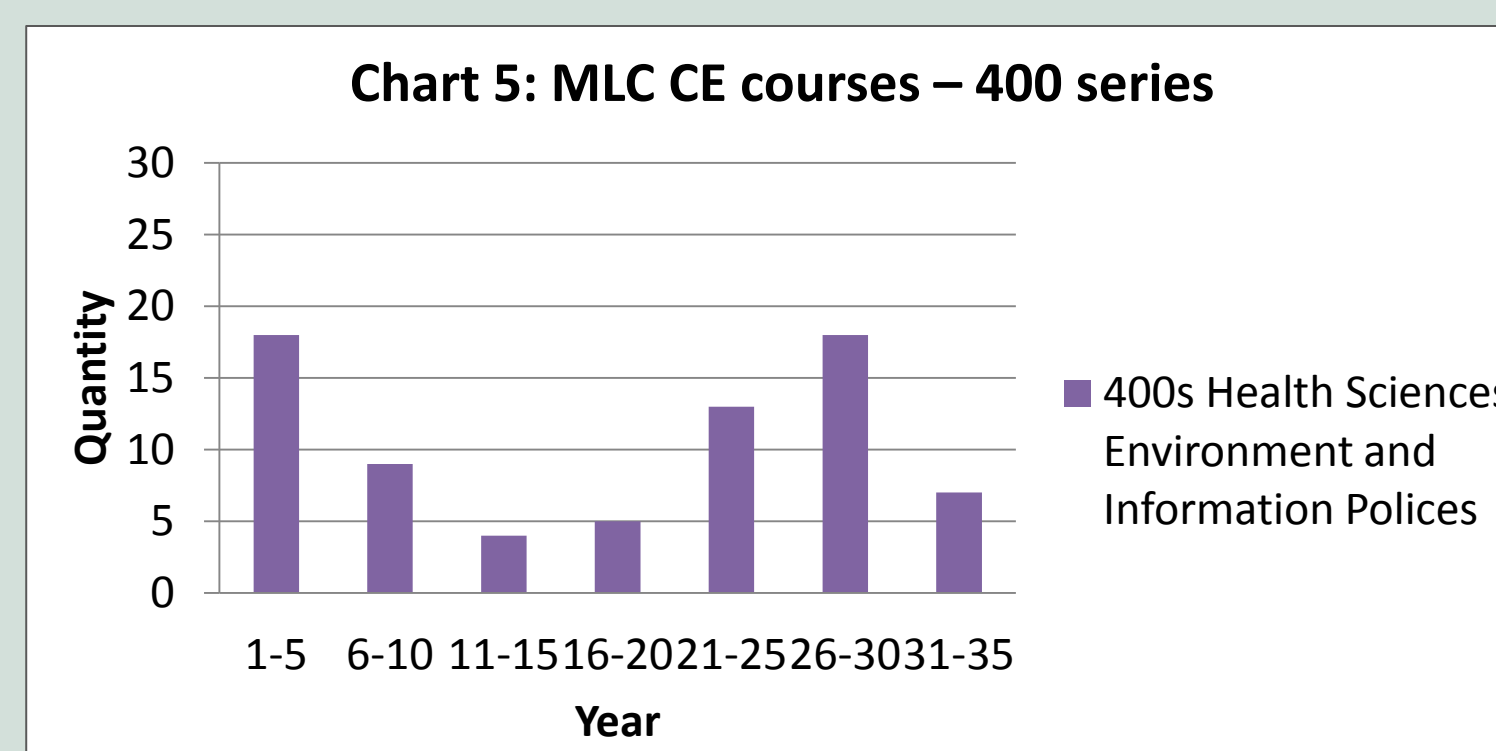
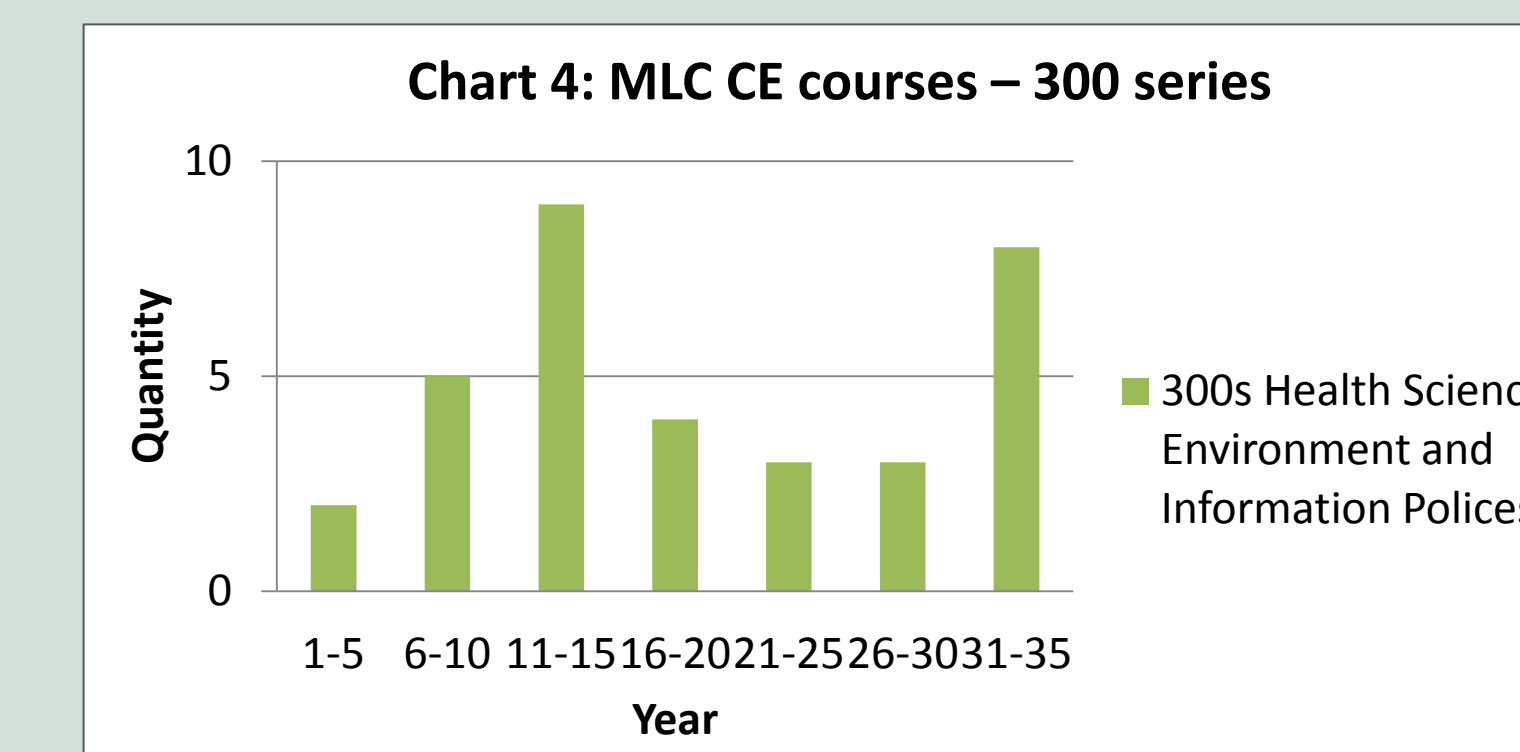
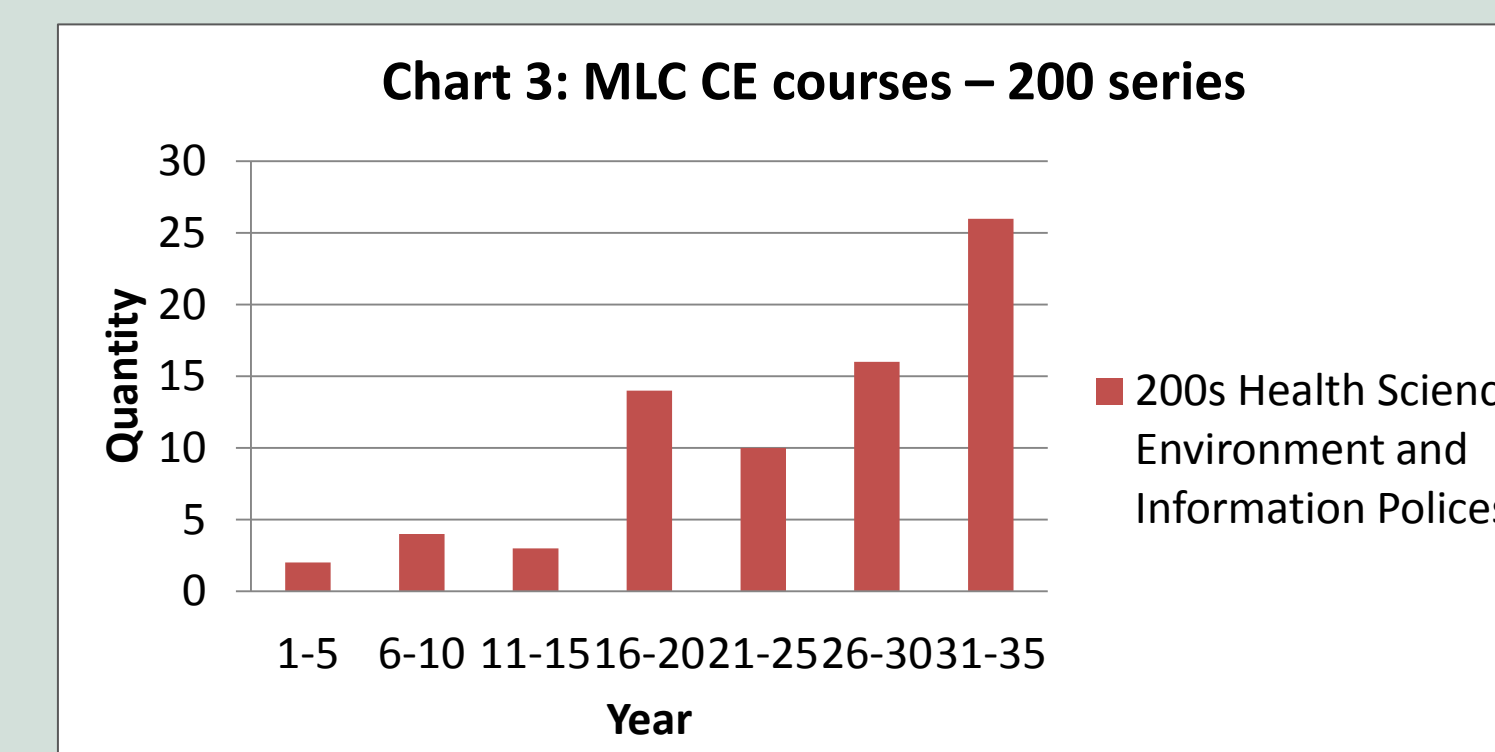
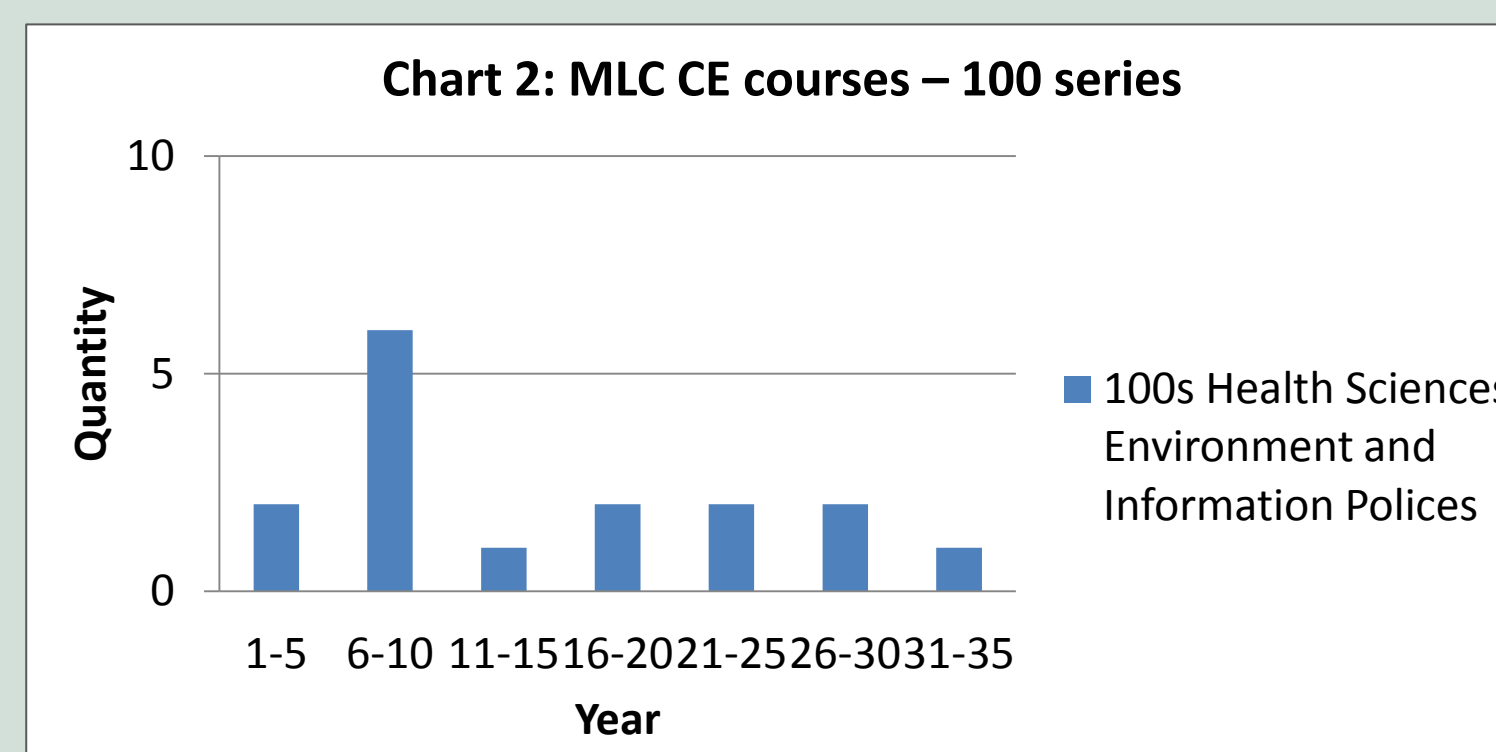
Year	100s	200s	300s	400s	500s	600s	700s	Subtotal
1 (1979)	1	1	0	3	0	0	0	5
2 (1981)	1	1	0	3	0	0	0	5
3 (1981)	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	5
4 (1982)	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	5
5 (1983)	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	4
6 (1984)	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	3
7 (1985)	0	2	3	1	0	0	0	6
8 (1986)	1	1	0	2	2	0	0	6
9 (1987)	0	1	1	4	1	0	0	7
10 (1988)	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	6
11 (1989)	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	3
12 (1990)	0	0	2	0	3	0	0	5
13 (1991)	0	0	1	1	3	0	0	5
14 (1992)	0	0	6	0	1	0	0	7
15 (1993)	1	2	0	2	0	0	0	5
16 (1994)	0	2	1	1	2	0	0	6
17 (1995)	0	4	1	1	1	0	0	7
18 (1996)	0	3	0	1	1	0	0	5
19 (1997)	1	2	0	0	2	0	0	5
20 (1998)	1	3	2	2	0	0	0	8
21 (1999)	1	3	0	1	0	0	0	5
22 (2000)	1	2	1	2	1	0	0	7
23 (2001)	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	5
24 (2002)	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	4
25 (2003)	0	2	2	5	3	0	0	12
26 (2004)	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	5
27 (2005)	1	2	0	4	0	0	0	7
28 (2006)	0	3	1	4	1	0	0	9
29 (2007)	0	4	1	4	2	0	0	11
30 (2008)	1	4	1	4	0	0	0	10
31 (2009)	0	4	1	4	0	0	1	10
32 (2010)	1	8	0	2	0	0	0	11
33 (2011)	0	4	3	0	1	1	1	10
34 (2012)	0	5	2	1	1	0	1	10
35 (2013)	0	5	2	0	1	1	1	10
Total	16	75	34	74	28	2	4	233
Percentage	6.87%	32.19%	14.59%	31.76%	12.02%	0.86%	1.72%	100%

Research methods

Applying the methodology of website content analysis, the author first collected all titles of the 233 speeches presented in MLC annual meetings from 1979 to 2103 via website of the Medical Library Committee, Library Association of ROC (Taiwan) [URL=<http://www.lac.org.tw/committee/med/index.htm>], and then coded these CE courses based on their topics and counted the frequency of each topic. In order to compare with the CE courses provided in MLA annual meetings in United States, these courses were further categorized into 7 areas of core competencies that MLA announced in its education policy statement "Competencies for Lifelong Learning and Professional Success" in Feb. 2007.

Competencies for Lifelong Learning and Professional Success (2007)

- ◆ 100s Understand the health sciences and health care environment
- ◆ 200s Know and understand the application of leadership, finance, communication, and management theory and techniques
- ◆ 300s Understand the principles and practices related to providing information services to meet users' needs
- ◆ 400s Have the ability to manage health information resources in a broad range of formats
- ◆ 500s Understand and use technology and systems to manage all forms of information
- ◆ 600s Understand curricular design and instruction and have the ability to teach ways to access, organize, and use information
- ◆ 700s Understand scientific research methods and have the ability to critically examine and filter research literature from many related disciplines



Conclusions

This research shows that the distribution of CE courses of our annual meetings are strictly unbalanced among the MLA's 7 core competencies. However, the teaching role of medical librarians is more and more important in the digital era. The author therefore suggests the "Curriculum Design and Instruction" related training should be improved. It is the author's hope that the research result can serve as the reference for future CE course planning of the MLC annual meeting in Taiwan.