

Job market Library Locums' 1989 placement survey

Library Locums has just completed its second annual statistical summary of permanent Library/Information positions successfully placed through its service in 1989. Some interesting facts and trends about the job market have emerged.

Demand for specialist recruitment of Library staff increased by 30 per cent — the second year in a row that demand has significantly grown. 'I think this is because Library Managers are becoming more aware of the benefits of using our service', says Marion Nicolson from Library Locums. 'Libraries have to keep running when a vacancy occurs, so there is even less time to deal with job applicants. We lessen the wear and tear of searching for new library staff.'

About 85 per cent of Library Locums' permanent placements were requests from the private sector. Of the

15 per cent of jobs from the government or public sector, there was an increase in demand from public libraries and college libraries. It probably indicates a further opening up of the recruitment procedures within the public sector to private specialist employment services.

Where people went

For the second year in a row the greatest demand for permanent library staff was in the banking-finance-accounting area. The number of professional positions in corporate libraries again increased. (This is the complete opposite of the trend in the USA where corporate library positions have decreased over the past 2 years.) Demand for library staff in computing, science and medicine was steady over 2 years. The service sector displayed the greatest increase from 1988. In particular, management consultants, executive search and research firms recognised the value of library and information skills to their operations.

Library Type	1989
Financial	27%
Mining/Engineering	17%
Communications	15%
Technical/Science	13%
Legal	11%
Library services	7%
Education	6%
Manufacturing	4%

Who is needed

There was a marked fall in the number of permanent part-time positions on offer — down from 22 per cent in 1988 to just 3 per cent in 1989. On the other hand, the call for experienced, full-time staff grew by over 15 per cent from 1988. The key factor is experience. Jobs requiring professionally qualified librarians represented 69 per cent of permanent placements. Of these jobs, 59 per cent were at Librarian Class 1 Level (or equivalent) and 41 per cent were at Librarian Class 2 Level or above. These positions were mostly called 'Librarian' but a small number were called 'Researcher', 'Information Manager' or 'Information Specialist'.

Qualified and partly qualified library technicians made up 21 per cent of permanent positions. This is down from 1988 but demand is still strongest in the banking-finance-accounting area. The remaining 10 per cent of permanent positions were at the clerical and filing level.

What people were paid

Overall, salaries for qualified and experienced librarians were up from 1988. In the private sector, most experienced librarians were offered salaries in the \$28 000-\$31 999 range compared to the \$25 000-\$27 999 range in 1988. In 1989 Library Locums recorded an increase in the number of full-time librarian's positions it filled with salaries above \$35 000 per annum. Experienced library technicians in demand in banking-finance-accounting were receiving salaries between \$24 000 and \$25 000 per annum.

Qualified librarians	1989	1988
\$25 000-\$27 999	30%	56%
\$28 000-\$31 999	41%	21%
\$32 000-\$34 999	18%	16%
\$35 000+	11%	7%

Library technicians	1989	1988
\$17 500-\$20 999	12%	19%
\$21 000-\$23 999	75%	77%
\$24 000+	12%	4%

'Although our survey is based on a small sample,' admits Marion Nicolson, 'I think it shows some valid trends in the job market. We are always in touch with employers and librarians looking for work. If anyone has questions about salaries or job requirements they are welcome to give us a call.' Library Locums can be contacted on (02) 699 1855.

From 12 ...

The State Library Foundation was established in December 1987, in order to attract financial and corporate support for the State Library. The Foundation Directors, headed by Jim Bain, Chairman, aim to raise a capital sum of \$10 million over the next 5 years. The Foundation funds will be used to support State Library projects and activities in four key areas — preservation of the collection including restoration of treasures; purchase of additional items to enhance the collections; professional design and presentation of exhibitions; and special projects such as experimental projects associated with new technology — and providing appropriate decorations, facilities and equipment for the State Library building complex. The State Library Foundation has raised over \$3 million of the \$10 million target.

For further information on membership of the State Library of New South Wales Foundation please contact Catherine Walsh, Administrative Assistant (02) 230 1529.

Tribute to Patricia Ward

Colleagues and friends are invited to a memorial gathering at the Galleries, State Library of NSW, Macquarie Street Sydney (Mitchell Wing entrance) on Thursday 28 June 1990.

The evening has been planned to enable us to pay tribute formally, and informally, to an outstanding colleague and missed friend.

28 June 1990
6.15 for 6.30pm

RSVP 21 June 1990
Julie Young, President, ALIA NSW Branch
Ph: (02) 230 1448