

Ten top jobs

Many librarians like lists and I have drawn up a list of my 'Ten top jobs'. These are the jobs which, in my view, must have people in them who are going to lead the profession and library and information services into the future. The holders of these jobs are people of influence, they set the example and the standard, and they provide inspiration for the younger members of our profession. Or at least I hope so.

There are always pressures to appoint non-librarians to our top jobs, usually justified on the grounds that the job requires a top-notch manager and the profession does not have a person or people of the right calibre. And we, as librarians, may be partly to blame. We are not strong, as a professional group, on confidence and ambition.

We should be confident given our skills and expertise and we should, each of us, be suffi-

ciently ambitious to work hard to achieve our potential within the profession. ALIA's continuing professional development program should be aimed in part at making sure our profession has a number of people competent to rise to the top.

We look for people in our top jobs to do more than manage well. We expect them to provide leadership to the profession and to ensure that the strategic direction for libraries in general will achieve an optimal level of service for the community of library users.

I encourage all librarians and particularly those under thirty-five to set some career goals and to aim for a top job. Whether you make it or not your career and the library service you work for will be all the better because of your efforts.

My top ten are:

1. Director-general, National Library of Australia
2. State librarian, State Library

of New South Wales

3. State librarian, Victoria
4. University librarian, University of Sydney
5. University librarian, University of Melbourne
6. Parliamentary librarian, Commonwealth Parliament
7. Deputy director-general, National Library of Australia
8. Professor of librarianship, Monash University
9. Professor of librarianship, University of New South Wales
10. Executive director, Australian Library and Information Association

If your list differs, it may not be important. It is striving for the top that counts.

John Brudenall

Hiding his age?

I have always been impressed with John Levett's capability, but find it all the more impressive now than I realise his advanced age. In his review of the Metcalf

diaries edited by Boyd Rayward, (June *inCite*), he reveals himself as a graduate of the class of 1933. Even allowing for graduation at a precocious age of say 18, a feat not beyond Levett I'm sure, this would make him 81 — a most impressive age at which to be taking on such challenges as the editing of *ALJ*. Perhaps it's that healthy Tasmanian air, but I don't believe he looks a day over 75.

Helen Tait
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Your voice

Your letters on any issue of relevance to the library and information sector are welcomed.

All letters should be addressed to the *inCite* editor and may be e-mailed to incite@alia.org.au, or faxed to 06 282 2249, or posted to: Your voice, ALIA, PO Box E441, Kingston ACT 2604. Please include your name and postal address with your letter or e-mail.

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