

Jobs survey results released

Marion Nicolson, managing director, Library Locums

Library Locums seventh annual survey of library jobs has indicated that there is a jobs revolution happening and it is changing the nature of library work and skills in demand in the library and information profession.

Growth in employment

There was a 53 per cent increase in demand for temporary and contract staff in 1994-5, and a 45 per cent increase in demand for permanent staff in the same period. The majority of Library Locums clients are experiencing an increase in demand for library and information services.

The improvement in the number of permanent jobs suggests that organisations are re-staffing after cutbacks during the recession. World-wide, experienced and specialised staff are in great demand, a trend evident in the survey which found that librarians with three or more years' experience and library technicians have the greatest job opportunities. The study confirms that temporary work in the sector is increasing at a fast rate, however, it is significant that the percentages of temporary, contract and permanent work have remained fairly constant — roughly a 80/20 split between temporary and contract/permanent jobs.

New graduates

An encouraging trend has been the in-

crease in the number of jobs for new graduates, growing from five per cent in 1992-3 to 11 per cent in 1994-5.

Skills in demand

The 1993-4 survey found that you have the best job prospects if you are a librarian or a library technician with one to five years experience in cataloguing or online research. In 1994-5 online information retrieval and cataloguing skills are in greatest demand and receive the highest remuneration. At the top of the salary range, employers are paying the most for knowledge of information technology and the ability to advise on and implement policy relating to information technology.

The survey results suggest that the role of the librarian is changing and the key issue is how librarians keep pace with changing technology. The challenge now faced by the industry is to become the primary disseminators of information rather than just information technology specialists. Salaries paid to library technicians and librarians by their skills, duties and desirable qualities were also analysed in the survey.

If you would like a detailed report of the latest Library Locums job placement survey, phone Marion Nicolson on (02) 699 1855 or e-mail any Library Locums office on libjobs@libjobs.com.

London Online 1995

Richard Siegersma

Standing in a line of about 250 people at -5°C was not the welcome I was expecting at a state-of-the-art information conference. Obviously, logistics management has yet to be influenced by the British information industry. A hand-written visitor name-tag is not the level of professionalism we are used to at our 'Online', however, things got better once you entered the exhibition proper.

Extensive program guides were available which identified and summarised each exhibitor's speciality, as well as listing all the conference papers. Most international information companies and agencies were represented at Online. Over 300 organisations from around the world gathered to show the world their wares. Walking down the aisles was like having a smorgasbord of language — Russian, French, German, Italian, Span-

ish, Greek, and Afrikaans to list just a few. One floor of the exhibition was primarily Internet service providers and Internet related industries. Web home page designers, software developers and companies offering free online time vied for our attention.

Moore's Law states that computer technology doubles in capacity for the same value every 18 months. The Online exhibition confirmed the Law. Who would have thought that MEDLINE could be accessed by using Fussy logic built into a free browser even three months ago! A warm English beer in a local pub was the best way to wind down after the exhibition. Conversation centred on the opportunities available to us all. I look forward to seeing the next wave of innovation in next years exhibition.

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Library Locums

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Applications close on
31 May 1996