Snapshot of corporate librarians

Library Locums salary survey results released

A new report presents a profile of the typical corporate librarian in Australia — she is thirty-nine, female and holds either a graduate or post graduate level library qualification. She has a permanent full-time job and works forty-two hours a week. These are some of the findings of the *Library and information work and salary survey*, which was carried out in October 1997 by Library Locums.

The survey analyses four categories of staff in private sector libraries and information departments — librarians-in-charge/information managers, librarians, library technicians and library assistants — working in 266 organisations. Respondents were not necessarily members of ALIA. Data from 542 individuals covers an age range from ninteen to sixty-seven, library experience between 0.8 and 40 years and salaries from $18 000 to $80 000 per year.

The survey reveals several interesting aspects of work in the organisations sampled. These include:

- the majority of respondents were under forty;
- respondents have an average of eleven years library experience;
- seventy-four per cent are permanent full-time employees and the remaining twenty-six per cent hold permanent part-time jobs;
- the proportion of library technicians to librarians is low — 5.6 librarians responded to the survey for every technician;
- eighty per cent of librarians and eight per cent of technicians who responded earn more than $700 per week; fifty-nine per cent of librarians, but no library technicians, earn more than $800 per week;

- among respondents at lower levels, female librarians are actually earning more than their male counterparts. The median salary for female librarians/information officers is $38 000 against $36 700 for men in similar positions;
- the median salary for both female and male respondents in librarian-in-charge/information manager jobs is identical at $48 000;
- responses confirm a concentration of men in executive level jobs in private sector libraries. While women are more evenly located across all levels, they are over-represented on the lower rungs of the library and information management ladder and under-represented in decision making positions.
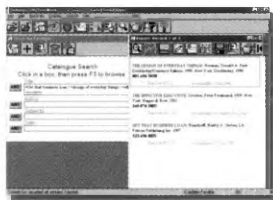
Copies of the report are available from Library Locums. ∎