

Millennial librarians: getting them into the industry

A new working party has formed in Victoria to promote working and studying in the library and information industry. "This is an exciting and dynamic industry. Those of us in the sector know of the great career opportunities, but we need to do more to promote our 'hidden gem' of a profession to people making career and study choices," reports Chris Kelly of Hume Global Learning Village Library Service. "The future success of the profession depends on bringing in people who are excited about building their skills and working in a 21st century industry. Those of us already in the profession need to show them the way."

The working party has certainly struck a chord, with members from all sectors stepping up to join. Representatives are from public, special and educational libraries, along with LIS educators, the State Library of Victoria, government advisors and industry associations ALIA and SLAV. "We have a fantastic array of skills and resources to call upon. But, more importantly, a high level of motivation. We recognise that workforce planning is a critical issue," says Chris.

The working party is liaising closely with the Career Educators Association of Victoria (CAEV) to provide information to be circulated to careers teachers. This will enable them to inform students of the variety of career and study options within the LIS industry and to highlight the diversity of roles undertaken by library and information professionals.

The working party acknowledges that careers staff are a vital link. "Career counsellors need to know what fantastic opportunities there are in the information industry and have the resources to pass on to students considering this sector. To facilitate this we are planning a range of resources; from articles in CAEV publications, to library tours, conference presentations and interactive electronic material."

Recognising that it's not only school leavers who are prospective entrants to the profession, the working party is planning a multifaceted marketing program.

While this is currently a Victorian initiative, we welcome input from across Australia. Cross fertilisation of knowledge and resources is important. ALIA has hosted an e-list to facilitate communication between members of the working party. Please e-mail me at margie.anderson@alia.org.au if you'd like to subscribe to the e-list. If you want to know more about the projects of the working party, join the e-list or drop a line to me or to Chris Kelly [ChrisK@hume.vic.gov.au].

Margie Anderson

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