



# NEW GRADUATES SURVEY REPORT PART 2

*In part two of our report of the ALIA survey of students and new graduates, outgoing New Generation Advisory Committee (NGAC) Chair Kate Freedman and incoming Deputy Chair Kirsty Wilson précis new grads' feedback on where they want to see the library and information sector in ten years.*

The responses from current students and new graduates on the future of the profession were generally positive. The library was put forward as a third space or an information hub. Many respondents mentioned the importance of the library as a physical, not just a virtual, presence with the following terms being mentioned frequently: community hubs/spaces, research hubs, community gathering place, digital media hubs.

The ubiquitous library for the masses was balanced by the need for flexible working conditions – change in not only the provision of services, but the staffing of services (family friendly, working from home, night time online reference provision to the revitalised northern hemisphere).

Strong themes emerged around visibility (reputation/profile) and understanding of the profession and the services we offer ('rebranded and revalued'), the need to be more integral to communities (and better funded to be placed to provide this service) as a thriving and highly respected industry.

Tied into this was the need for new strong and clear leadership, and for the industry to evolve at a better pace with technology, but also to be balanced by the provision of traditional format material.

Concerns about relevancy and the provision of user-focused services contrasted with people tiring of the industry and profession being obsessed about how we are seen.

The importance of accredited LIS courses being offered by institutions was mentioned regularly by respondents, as was the desire for courses which provided up to date information across different disciplines which could then feed into a better profile for the profession.

Concerns were raised about a lack of professional development in current roles, a perceived lack of respect for the field, and poor funding and understanding of libraries, especially school and public libraries, which was seen to feed into uncertainty about the industry's ability to survive, thrive and evolve.

Respondents were also very focused on employment and job availability. There was an emphasis on collaboration and better relationships between different types of libraries, and recognition of all information roles, not just those of librarians.

Many of these issues are not new but, with the fast pace of change, now is the time to start. ALIA and NGAC invite everyone, established librarians and those who are new to the sector, to welcome the challenge of collaboration, building public awareness and establishing new ways that information professionals can gain professional development opportunities.

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## 10 YEARS FROM NOW...

'I would like to see us more prominent in people's mind when they need help researching and just evolving gracefully with emerging technologies.'

'No longer freaking out over whether we're relevant and able to focus on more interesting things!'

'Better recognised as a powerful and transformative profession, not pictured as a lady in a cardigan surrounded by books.'

'...a place that the community relies upon for cultural and social nourishment.'