



Australian Library and
Information Association

ALIA LIS EDUCATION, SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT TREND REPORT 2014



EDUCATION KEY IN A TIGHT JOB MARKET

ALIA has released its first trend report, examining education, skills and employment movements in the sector over the last five years. The ALIA LIS Education, Skills and Employment Trend Report 2014 was launched at the ALIA National 2014 Conference last month and provides insights into the big questions: how many jobs will there be in the future and what skills and qualifications will be needed to fill them?

The findings will give educators, employers and students greater clarity about the education and employment environment and about the qualifications that will help ensure career success.

In Australia, library and information science is an occupation with a relatively small yet highly qualified workforce, with master's level qualifications being the most popular qualification in higher education and the diploma level in the vocational education sector. Compared with people employed across all occupations nationally, librarians, library technicians and library assistants have attained significantly higher levels of education.

Reflecting this attainment, the report shows average full time weekly earnings for librarians are 30% above the national average, although library technicians' earnings are on a par with the average for all occupations.

Currently some 26 institutions are delivering 39 ALIA-accredited courses around Australia.

Despite news of job cuts, the sector remains an attractive proposition for qualified professionals looking for relatively well paid positions and regular hours. The job market is competitive but a modest increase in positions is expected over the next five years as a proportion of the profession reaches retirement age.

It is also a tight market for vendors. Between 2009 and 2010, vendors in the sector saw their businesses effectively halve under the impact of a strong Australian dollar and the aftermath of the Global Financial Crisis.

ALIA will be providing the report to government and other agencies, and using the results to inform development of strategies to support Members and the profession in a challenging environment. It is clear from the trends identified that education and ongoing professional development are critical to job hunting success and our academics and educators are vital to the sector, encouraging the development of the next generation of library and information professionals, supporting ongoing learning and undertaking important research to provide evidence and insights to help shape the future of the sector.

The ALIA LIS Education, Skills and Employment Trend Report 2014 is available to members on the ALIA website at bit.ly/1ricKzc.



Fully online, fully accredited and fully competitive

In addition to flexible online delivery and accreditation by the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA), QUT's Master of Information Technology (Library and Information Studies) has the added benefits of a real-world approach to learning and strong links with industry.

Graduates gain the knowledge and expertise to effectively meet the information needs of clients in today's information-rich and technology-driven age, and the skills to achieve successful job outcomes.

To fully equip yourself with a competitive edge, visit www.qut.edu.au/study/master-of-information-technology-library-and-information-studies

a university for the **real** world® **QUT**

CRICOS No.00213J © QUT 2013 SCI-13-137 20109