

for librarians will grow by 84% over the next 7 years.

Where is the evidence that there is a 12% annual growth in jobs for librarians?

There is much evidence that employment opportunities for librarians are contracting rather than expanding, with special libraries particularly badly hit. With amalgamations in the university sector and pending council amalgamations in Victoria (with possible implications for the public library sector) there is little evidence that either of these sectors will provide increased opportunities.

There seems to be considerable evidence that new graduates are experiencing difficulties securing employment (and this situation has been lamented for some years now!) but such optimistic predictions will encourage more students to choose librarianship as a career only to be disappointed or frustrated at the end of their courses. Can you blame them?

Surely the role of a professional association is to sound a note of caution (or provide further enlightenment!) rather than to simply endorse

predictions which appear to have no link with reality.

Dennis Warren

Have you done any research lately...?

...or have you started any research projects? If you can answer yes to one of these questions, the Australian Clearing House for Library and Information Science (ACHLIS) would like to hear from you. ACHLIS has been publishing *Australian Library and Information Research (ALIR)* since December 1992, with the agreement of the National Library. Continuation of *ALIR* depends on sufficient contributions from anyone involved in library and information science in libraries, information services or in library schools.

Don't hide your light under a bushel: please support ALIR and ask for me to send you a data report form from Neville Aylmore, Editor Australian Library and Information Research, C/- ACHLIS, University of South Australia Library, 15 Lorne Avenue, Magill 5072. Tel: (08) 302 4439; fax: (08) 302 4695.

LIBTEC is operational

Jean Bailey announces a new electronic mailing list for library technicians

LIBTEC has been established as an electronic mailing list to facilitate exchange and discussion matters relating to library technicians in Australia. LIBTEC will provide a forum for consultation, discussion, questions, news, and announcements about events and is available to practitioners, employers, educators, and anyone interested in library technician affairs.

Matters of primary interest will include education, training and development, competencies, workforce issues, representation, influence, standards, and any other matters which may be of interest or relevance to library technicians.

The list owner is Jean Bailey who is supported by the University of Sydney Information Service which maintains LIBTEC via a listserv facility. To subscribe to LIBTEC mail to listserv@is.su.edu.au with message 'subscribe LIBTEC your name'.

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