

Reclassified but demand steady

The federal government has revamped its occupation categories under the new Australian and New Zealand Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO), placing library and record keeping staff in the 'information and organisation' occupations and reporting a significant drop in sector numbers that is only partly due to the reshuffle of categories.

The new ANZSCO category is defined as working in "support organisations, government, individuals and the community by analysing, organising and managing information and data, and providing advice on policy, business and organisational methods, and the value of property and other items."

According to the latest skills research by the Clarius Group, new technologies, increasing demands to digitise records and succession planning are reportedly driving changes across a wide range of industry sectors in which information and organisation occupations are found.

Technologies driving this change include e-readers, smart phones, and tablet computers.

Skills requirements are being reshaped by the challenges of technology, retirements, and increasing requirements from both the private sector and all levels of government.

The sector is reportedly shrinking dramatically, dropping from 23 700 workers in the June 2011 quarter to just 13 900 in December reporting.

Library and information sector recruitment firm The One Umbrella says the changing requirements are revealing shortages of archivists and records staff with sentencing (document destruction) and electronic documents management experience for the business and public sectors, while there is a continuing demand for cataloguers, teacher librarians, and library-experienced sales consultants in the library sector.

Succession planning and up-skilling of existing staff remain ongoing concerns for many employers.

enlightened control over social conditions," and even less faith that public libraries are an essential part of that process.

This snapshot of library criticism from 75 years ago shows us both that libraries have in practice and principle changed dramatically in that time and in unpredictable ways. The only thing that hasn't seemed to change is the relentless criticism we apply to ourselves and our profession, the insistence that we are out of touch somehow with the larger world, that we've been "switched out of the current of social change, occupying a niche or eddy" of our own. Unless we assume that libraries suddenly began changing and adapting in response to this article in the *Library Quarterly*, we have to assume that such wasn't true then, and we have no real evidence that it's true now. What we have instead are insubstantial panics and false prophets of doom, and in this area it's true that libraries haven't changed at all.

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