

Tremendous opportunities available in the sector



Virginia Walsh

Executive director

A career in the library and information profession opens many doors. Some of the stories in this edition of *inCite* demonstrate the variety of work experiences which librarians in Australia enjoy. Importantly, there is great enthusiasm for the future which was a feature of the recently concluded ALIA biennial conference in Melbourne.

Libraries, information and resource centres are found in all areas of business and in all spheres of government. These include schools, TAFE, university, national, state and public libraries. There are also libraries in government departments and in private businesses which are known as special libraries. A qualification in library and information studies provides the entry level qualifications required to work in all these areas and to perform specialist tasks in a multitude of other areas. Some librarians choose to specialise in one of these areas but many enjoy the flexibility of being able to move between them.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics has predicted employment growth of 74.5 per cent for librarians over the next decade. In the context of estimated total employment growth of 27.4 per cent this represents a remarkable opportunity for young people who choose to pursue library and information studies. These days we find a strong client focus within the profession and a recognition of the importance of meeting the variety of information needs that abound. New technologies are used to facilitate this service orientation and underpin the strong demand in business and the community for relevant and timely information services. The growth of online information services, including the

Internet, has ensured that librarians are leaders in the field of information technology. It is this development that has helped secure such a rosy future for the profession.

One of the aims of this edition of our Association's magazine is to encourage librarianship as a career choice for young people. There are also positions within the sector which offer tremendous opportunities and these include library technician and library assistant jobs. We hope too to encourage our members to contemplate options for employment diversification.

ALIA has a range of publications to assist in making career choices. We publish a booklet that contains information about all the library and information science courses available at universities and TAFEs. We produce information about applying for jobs which aim to help you make the best impression at interview. Our Branches co-ordinate mentoring and professional development activities designed to ensure that the sector remains abreast of the latest management concepts and is well placed to service the information needs of our customers. The library and information community is a strong,

occupation	growth	total jobs 2004/05
Psychologists	101.4%	14300
Mathematicians/statisticians	94.7%	5800
Speech pathologists	87.6%	4500
Computing professionals	86.2%	147900
Childcare workers	85.9%	141500
Social workers	83.7%	20500
Occupational therapists	79.9%	9600
Welfare paraprofessionals	77.3%	50800
Business professionals	76%	127000
Librarians	74.5%	25200

energetic and committed group of people with a bright future. We invite you to consider these opportunities while reading this magazine. Further information and brochures are available from the ALIA National Office in Canberra, where we welcome your enquiries.

The library and information community is a strong, energetic and committed group of people with a bright future.