ALIA LIS EDUCATION, SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT **TREND REPORT 2018**

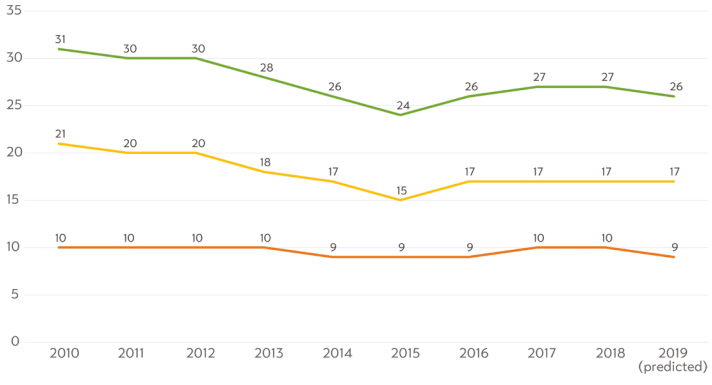
The fifth annual ALIA LIS Education, Skills and Employment Trend Report has been released and is available online (bit.ly/2r8kIBI). The intention of the report is to provide students, educators, employees and employers with an understanding of the national library and information science (LIS) landscape, and ALIA with the data we need to help inform our work as the sector's peak professional body.

In 2018, there were 10 Higher Education institutions offering 23 ALIA accredited courses, including Master degrees, Bachelor degrees, and Graduate Diplomas. There were two universities, 14 TAFEs and one private RTO offering 17 ALIA accredited Diploma of Library and Information Services courses, making a total of 27 accredited institutions and 40 accredited course (Figure 1).

Based on Equivalent Full Time Student Load (EFTSL) for Higher Education, and Full Year Training Equivalent (FYTE) for VET, 52% of LIS students are enrolled in Vocational Education and Training (VET) courses and 48% of students are enrolled in Higher Education courses. The most popular qualifications continue to be the Master degree in Higher Education and the Diploma in the VET sector.

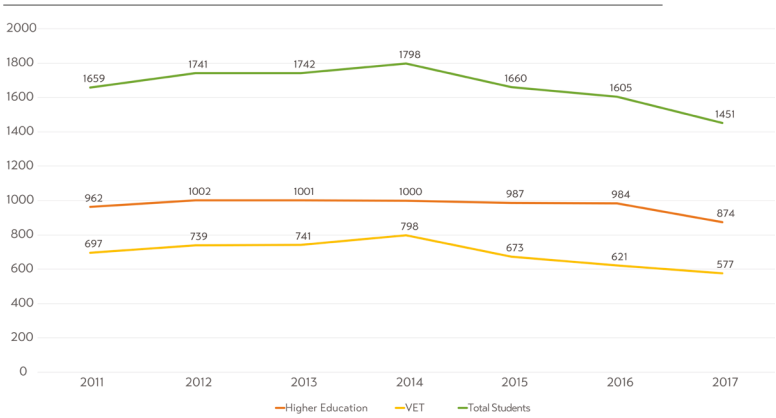
The number of LIS students enrolled in ALIA accredited Higher Education courses has dipped below 900 EFTSL for the first time since 2011, and for VET students the figure has fallen below 600 FYTE students (Figure 5). Are we producing enough graduates to meet demand? At this stage it would appear yes, given employment demand and unemployment levels.

Figure 1: Number of ALIA accredited institutions.



Source: ALIA course accreditation records 2018.

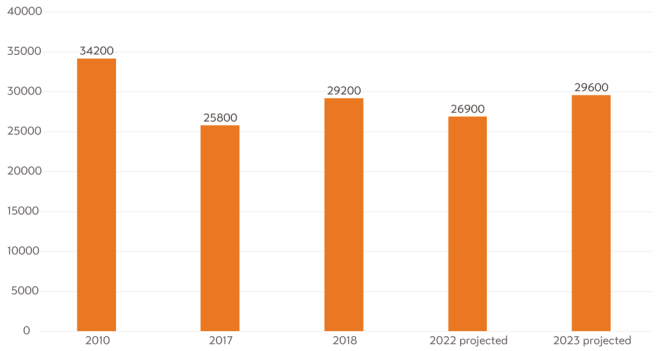
Figure 5: Number of students enrolled in ALIA accredited courses - EFTSL HE and FYTE VET.



Source: Department of Education, NCVER.

The Department of Employment *Australian Jobs 2018* report projected that in the five years from May 2018 to May 2023, there will be 1000 additional Librarian positions in the workforce; 300 fewer Technician positions, and 300 fewer Library Assistant positions (Figure 13).

Figure 13: Total Number of positions for libraries, library technicians and library assistants.



Source: Department of Employment Australian Jobs 2018.

Australian Jobs 2018

We have included both the *Department of Employment Australian Jobs Occupational Projections to May 2022* (released in 2017) and the more recent *Occupational Projections to May 2023* to show the volatility of such projections; an anticipated 15.6% projected employment growth five years to May 2022 as opposed to a 6.4% projected employment growth to May 2023 for Librarians.

The Department of Employment report states that 'These employment projections are designed to provide a guide to the future direction of the labour market, however, like all such exercises, they are subject to an inherent degree of uncertainty...the employment projections are based on detailed data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics Labour Force Survey. The projections have been derived from best practice time series models that summarise the information that is in a time series and convert it into a forecast'.

Part-time work remains a significant characteristic of our workforce with the majority, approximately 63%, of Library Assistants working part-time, just under half of Technicians (45%) and over one third of Librarians (38%).

The unemployment level for Librarians was average when compared with other occupations, while the level for Library Technicians and Library Assistants was below average. The top three states in terms of the number of job opportunities continued to be NSW, Victoria and Queensland.

There were also approximately 1,000 jobs working for the Australian industry partners who supply library and information related products.

Our interpretation

Library and information science is an occupation with a relatively small, highly qualified workforce and an even smaller educational footprint. Although the LIS workforce is small, our sector has significant reach and profile. ALIA estimates that some 12.9 million Australians use library services. More than 9.3 million Australians are registered public library users (source Australian Public Libraries Statistical Report 2015-2016) and still more use university, VET, special and school libraries.

The library and information sector remains an attractive employment choice but there is undoubtedly competition for jobs. The workforce tends to be static, with a relatively small number of vacancies occurring through staff turnover, people leaving the sector and the creation of new positions.

There will be a modest increase in the number of qualified positions available over the next five years, but a decrease in the number of positions for staff without an LIS qualification. The growth shows the importance of a formal commitment to ongoing learning by LIS professionals to stay current, such as utilising the recognition provided by ALIA's Certified Professional PD Scheme (bit.ly/2O7VX2M). Changes to ALIA's professional development program in the lead up to 2020 reflect the need for Certified Professional status in many parts of the sector.

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libraries australia
coming soon

Libraries Australia is launching collaborative initiatives to improve resource description of, and access to, Australian collections.

THE FUTURE OF RESOURCE SHARING IN AUSTRALIA
The National Library of Australia and ALIA are working with the newly formed Resource Sharing Futures Steering Group to develop a new vision for national resource sharing. This work will build on the outcomes of the 2018 Share It conference.

AUSTLANG CODE INCORPORATION
In partnership with the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, the National Library will incorporate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language codes into Libraries Australia bibliographic records.

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA
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