Becoming a Librarian, Being a Librarian: The New Zealand Perspective
by Mark Hangartner

New Zealand perspective

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Becoming a librarian

• A variety of library education providers
• An expectation of pre-training work experience
• Almost all students will be “mature” with demanding other life commitments - sound familiar?

Where can I get a qualification?

• MLIS from Victoria University
• Bachelors or Diploma from Open Polytechnic
• Degrees from Wananga – Maori
• Distance education from Charles Sturt University
Victoria Uni - the graduate plan

• MLIS the basic postgraduate qualification.
• Emphasis on a research project.
• Most expensive option
• Most complete over 2 – 4 years by distance.

Open Polytechnic

• More flexibility with study
• More options for undergraduate certificates / diplomas / bachelors degrees.
• Less expensive
• Mostly taught by distance
• Māori focussed
• Compulsory Māori language
• Aims to develop bilingual and bicultural managers of Māori information resources in Māori and non-Māori organisations.

• More options
• Popular in some public libraries
• Distance specialists
• Australian focus
Some give up

- Not for me after all
- English language too hard
- I just wanted a career change
- I haven’t got a chance without prior library experience
- Time commitment too big
Many excel

- New skills – real life scenarios
- Solve problems
- Gain pride
- Confident
- Professionals

Being a librarian in 2009

- More digital information
- More collaboration
- Bridging the digital divide
- New job titles
- New skills
Professional development

Registration
LIANZA topics such as
– Using the iPhone ebook reader
– Library Services in Second Life
– Technology Strategy Planning
– Public Libraries for Older Adults
– Are You Legally Challenged - Copyright-wise?

From the “coal face”

“The library is growing so fast and it is a challenge to keep learning fast enough to keep up with the pace. It is quite a responsibility to be setting up a new library from scratch, to perform all the functions both setting up and running the library, I do still feel isolated. I am a sole charge librarian, still studying, in a region with few other academic librarians and no other libraries using the Koha Integrated System or the Library of Congress Classification system.”

Rae Jones Library Life 2007
Let’s thank our speakers

• Dr Stuart Ferguson

• Sue Hutley

Images – apart from clip art and institution websites, from
Also referenced: