



# *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 OF WELLINGTON  
Te Whare Wānanga  
o te Upoko o te Ika a Māui
- Bachelors or Diploma from  Open Polytechnic  
KURATINI TUWHERA
- 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



## How to choose



I have a degree



costs



My personality



Managing the time



Where I want to go

## 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

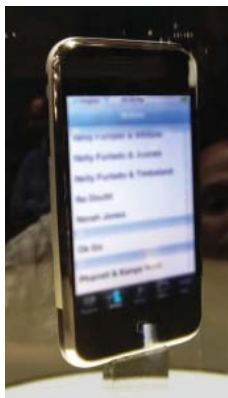


## Professional development

### 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

## Time for questions

Images – apart from clip art and institution websites, from  
Also referenced:  
Fields, Alison, and Rebecca Young.  
*Informing New Zealand : libraries, archives and records = Hei puna whakamohio mo Aotearoa : whare pukapuka, puranga korero, whare taonga*. 5th ed. Lower Hutt: Open Polytechnic of New Zealand, 2007.

