



CENSUS

of Australian Health Librarians and Library and Information Services (LIS) by Health Libraries Australia (HLA)

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RESULTS

Health Libraries: 328
Qualified Staff: 1050

Employees: 1250
Support Staff: 200

219 responses, equating to 267 unique National Union Catalogue symbols. An additional 61 services were further identified (n=328), approximating a 2% reduction since the last census of Australian health LIS in 2002.

The employed workforce is largely female



NSW, VIC, QLD & SA are the states with the largest number of health libraries, 70% are located in capital cities

FORECAST

Projected shortage of health librarians in the near future due to:

- The number of potential retirees outnumbering the number of new graduates entering the sector in the past 5 years (approximately 2:1)
- Job vacancies almost 10%, compared with the national job vacancy rate of 1.2%.

CONCLUSION

Extensive, systematic and ongoing data collection are necessary to provide supporting evidence for the development of health librarianship in Australia.

Full report: <https://www.alia.org.au/groups/HLA/hla-demonstrating-value>

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Purpose

- provide an objective evidence base for advocacy & promotion
- inform planning, policy development, & professional development for the sector

Aims

- quantify & qualify the Australian health library workforce
- report publicly on the data
- make the census replicable
- develop a web based data collection & reporting system

Methods

Many of the demographic & work-force data questions included in the census instruments were questions adapted from the Workforce & Education research project (Hallam et al, 2011*). Two questions were added asking about organisational structure and the types of library services.

Services were identified and listed under six broad headings: information, education, access, materials, building and equipment & technology.

The online census tool was built using a secure, industry standard Oracle database.

Qlikview, a data analysis software tool, was used to analyse the data.

*Hallam G et al (2011). Health Librarianship Workforce and Education: Research To Plan The Future. <http://tinyurl.com/lIs4mkm>