

Courses for Library Technicians

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Education for library technicians is constantly undergoing change and it can be a struggle to keep up-to-date. Upgrading qualifications can be rewarding but it can also become a seemingly never ending cycle, especially for those studying part-time where units can be changed or even deleted from the syllabus before completion.

One major difference that has occurred since I completed my Associate Diploma in 1991, is that the Diploma instead of the Associate Diploma is now the recognised qualification for a library technician. The Diploma itself has undergone changes with the introduction and implementation of the Library and Information Services training package: www.createaust.com.au/tplibrary.html. One change was cosmetic; the change of the name from Diploma of Library and Information Studies to Diploma of Library and Information Services. The Diploma will be offered as the entry-level qualification for library technicians. The Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) is currently reviewing the recognition process for the Diploma of Library and Information Services course based on the training package: www.alia.org.au/education/courses/technician.html.

There are several different educational options available to library technicians. Some technicians who hold an Associate Diploma, or any of the qualifications previous to this, might consider upgrading to the Diploma currently offered.

Many institutions in Australia offer courses for library technician education –

Australian Capital Territory

Canberra Institute of Technology offers a Diploma of Library and Information Services through their Department of Computing and Information Management. The course is available on a full-time or part-time basis.

New South Wales

TAFE New South Wales provides a Diploma of Library and Information Services through the Sydney Institute of Technology (Ultimo Campus); Western Sydney Institute of TAFE (Mount Druitt Campus); Hunter Institute of Technology (Newcastle Campus); Illawarra Institute of Technology (Wollongong Campus); and the Riverina Institute of TAFE (Albury Campus). All the courses are available on a full-time or part-time basis, except the Riverina course which is offered part-time only.

Northern Territory

Northern Territory University has a Diploma in Library and Information Services at the Faculty of Law, Business and Arts. The course is available on a full-time or part-time internal basis, with distance learning/flexible delivery being developed on an incremental part-time basis.

Queensland

Southbank Institute of TAFE offers a Diploma of Library and Information Services through their Morningside Campus. The course is available on a full-time or part-time evening basis.

South Australia

Adelaide Institute of TAFE provides a Diploma of Library and Information Services.

Tasmania

TAFE Tasmania has a Diploma of Library and Museum Information Services situated at the Valley Road, Alanvale and Tasman Campuses. The course is available on a full-time or part-time basis.

Victoria

Box Hill Institute of TAFE (Nelson Campus) offers a Diploma of Library and Information Services through the Library and Information Studies Department within the Centre for Information Technologies. The course is available on a full-time or part-time basis and by flexible delivery (external studies)

Swinburne University of Technology (Prahan Campus) has a Diploma of Library and Information Studies. The course is available on a full-time or part-time basis.

The Diplomas offered at both Box Hill and Swinburne have an early exit point at Certificate III in Library and Information Services.

The University of Ballarat offers a Diploma of Library and Information Studies through their TAFE Division. The course delivery is a mixture of off-campus and weekend workshops. It has an early exit point at Certificate IV in Library and Information Services.

Victoria University of Technology provides a Diploma of Library and Information Services through their TAFE Division. The course is available on-campus, by non-campus flexible delivery, delivery off-campus, or in a mixture of these (a combination of on-campus, off-campus and block release). It has an early exit point at Certificate III in Library and Information Services.

Western Australia

Central TAFE (Perth Campus) offers a Diploma of Library and Information Services at the Centre for Information and Technology Services within the Western Australian School of Management and Business. The course is available on a full-time or part-time basis and some units can be undertaken in flexible delivery mode.

Edith Cowan University provides an Associate Degree of Science (Library Technology) and a Bachelor of Science (Library Technology) through their School of Computer and Information Science. Both courses are available on full-time, part-time or external basis.

Legal studies

Those who do not wish to upgrade their library technician qualifications but would still like to study may choose a course in legal studies to complement their technician qualification

Some universities such as the University of New England, University of Sydney and Deakin University offer the Bachelor of Laws (LLB) part-time through off-campus study for those who may be working full-time or living major distances from these institutions. Murdoch University offers a Graduate Certificate of Law.

As an alternative to the LLB and for those not interested in practising law, some TAFE campuses offer paralegal courses, usually part-time and sometimes with night classes scheduled.

Non-degree courses also exist such as the 'Law for Non-Lawyers' course that is offered through the University of Western Australia extension programme.

There are a lot of study options available to suit almost everyone and a search on the Internet will locate most of them.