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Tēnā koe Anne

Since the withdrawal of cataloguing-specific papers in 2023, the New Zealand cataloguing community has felt the effects of the lack of practical New Zealand-based cataloguing papers.

There is concern in the sector about the availability of experienced cataloguers needed in the future to ensure succession planning. The industry needs people who have the knowledge and expertise to navigate the world of bibliographic metadata, provide a quality experience for end-users, and support the transition to more contemporary cataloguing and knowledge management practices.

Following a recent survey of the New Zealand library community, which received 208 responses, a clear need for a locally focused cataloguing paper was identified. Please see the survey responses attached.

With the emergence of a range of AI tools that claim to be able to support the navigation and understanding of large knowledge sets like library and archival collections, we see an opportunity for growth of learning in this area. Specifically, using professional knowledge organisation and cataloguing concepts that can be supported by new and emerging technologies. The study of local and global use cases, the application of critical thinking into the benefits of using such tools, and the role of 'traditional' cataloguing practice alongside them, are the kinds of thinking and application we will need in the workforce now and in the near future.

LIANZA is sharing this survey feedback and these thoughts with both Open Polytechnic and Te Herenga Waka Victoria University, in the hope that one of your institutions will consider offering an updated, contemporary, and practical cataloguing course on a regular basis. Respondents emphasised the importance of delivering the course at a reasonable cost and at a time that accommodates working professionals.

We would be happy to discuss this further with you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laura Marshall".

Nāku noa, nā

Laura Marshall
Te Rau Herenga o Aotearoa
LIANZA