

Natasha de Guiseppe - Working overseas

Natalie talked about her experiences and gave us hints and tips about working overseas.

She suggested looking far and wide for information about travelling and working overseas, including information from the internet and your local library catalogue. The most important thing to find out are what rules apply to working in the country or countries that you are planning to visit and to utilise the many employment agencies and job websites available specifically for librarian or information professionals. Natasha suggested the following sites:

U.K. Europe and U.S.	TFPL	www.tfpl.com
U.K.	INFOmatch	www.cilip.org.uk/jobs_careers/infomatch.html
U.K.	Lisjobnet	www.lisjobnet.org.uk
U.S.	Libjobs	www.libjobs.com

It is difficult to get permission to work in the United States due to strict visa restrictions, however from Natasha's experience, there are ample jobs available, in the U.K. In fact, Natasha observed that in many cases to get a library job in England you don't even need qualifications or previous experience! In regards to a question as to whether you should apply for overseas jobs before leaving Australia, Natasha replied that employers might overlook you, especially for temp jobs, as they are often looking to employ someone on short notice.

Natasha impressed upon us to open ourselves up to a range of positions. It is important to not let job titles scare you, as the job title and selection criteria don't often describe what it is you would do in the role in many cases anyway. She suggested that if you go through a recruitment agency that you generally do not need to address selection criteria. Natasha encouraged us to not pass up on temp jobs and they may lead to permanent jobs, especially if you are enthusiastic and dedicated.

Natasha concluded by saying that there is no need to get overly worried about the prospect of working as a librarian overseas. The experiences you will bring back will be manifold and wonderful.