



The LIBRARY ASSOCIATION of IRELAND

Cumann Leabharlann na hÉireann

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LIBRARIANS
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IN IRELAND



Task Force on Employment Support – Report to Executive Board, Library Association of Ireland

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Background to the Taskforce

- Anecdotal evidence of lack of opportunities for work experience and employment
- A&SL group discussions led to discussions with the LAI
- A&SL proposed motion at LAI AGM March 2010
- LAI keen to formalise process
- Taskforce convened and first meeting in May 2010
- Taskforce members and schedule

Initial aims of Taskforce

Proposed focus (terms of reference):

- setting up a support network for recent graduates who are having difficulty in securing full time employment
- explore the opportunities available to provide library and information professionals with work experience, while looking for full time employment
- provide support to library and information professionals, who are currently seeking employment - as a result of redundancy, reduced working hours or other aspects of the current economic conditions
- develop material which will assist library and information professionals in dealing with aspects of the reduction of resources and services as part of the current economic climate;
- a priority for the Taskforce is to communicate its work to all members of the LAI and to seek feedback on an ongoing basis in an appropriate way

Work of the Taskforce

- Research
 - Researching current practice in relation to volunteer work, work experience and intern opportunities – Ireland, UK, USA
- Survey
 - Local authority library services, academic libraries, professional bodies
- Review of FAS work placement scheme
- Investigate volunteering best practice
- Workshop held in November 2010
- Focus group event

Output from Taskforce work

- Results of survey
 - Volunteering and work experience opportunities available in Ireland but mostly ad hoc and no standard practices
- Outcomes from Focus group
- Report to EB published in July 2011
- Includes wide range of practical and useful appendices

Taskforce Recommendations

- LAI advocates for diverse and dynamic skill sets of library & information professionals
- Executive Board adopts a position on volunteering and internships within the library profession
- LAI reviews communication channels in order to best provide employment and career support for members
- LAI explores member alerts to communicate on work placement opportunities
- LAI develop framework of practical resources to assist organisations and members

Taskforce Recommendations contd.

- LAI develops training programmes on use of social media, career strategy & career development
- LAI develops training programmes on new models of employment
- LAI investigates CPD leadership development programme
- LAI increases networking opportunities for members
- LAI supports networking agenda in all conferences under LAI banner
- LAI considers formal networking scheme for members

Some feedback

- Recommendations have been assigned by LAI Executive Board to committees and task forces
- Executive Board have communicated with the Government Libraries Group, chief IT librarians, CONUL members, Prison Libraries Group, HSLG to inform them of the publication of the report
- Groups and sections have been asked to make available discounted or free places to unemployed/volunteer/work placement/intern/unwaged members at their events
- Commentary on the report on the SILS alumni facebook page

Thank-you !

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Taskforce report - <http://www.libraryassociation.ie/2011/10/26/task-force-on-employment-support-report-to-the-executive-board/>

Academic & Special Libraries Section LAI - <http://www2.libraryassociation.ie/sections-and-groups/academic-and-special-libraries-section/>