

## Projected Job Openings in Colorado Libraries

The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE) projects growth in jobs available in libraries in the coming years. Annual growth in librarian positions in the state is expected to be 1.9%, in library assistant positions 2.8%, and for library technicians 3.2%. (Definitions of these terms can be found on page 2.) The number of openings in libraries is smaller in number than in some other types of employment, but the annual percentage change is promising for job-seekers in libraries. Expected openings due to replacement needs are higher than openings due to growth,



except for library technicians. This suggests current librarians are reaching retirement age and will need to be replaced. See Table 1 for a summary of these findings compared to growth projected for other professions and jobs with similar requirements. While these projections do not take into account the recent economic downturn, there is not yet any reason to expect the relative positions of these occupations to be dramatically different.

**Table 1: Colorado Job Growth Projections**

Occupation	1998 Number Employed	2008 Employment Projection	Annual percent change	Number of Openings	Openings Due to Growth	Openings Due to Replacement
Bank Tellers	7,345	8,387	1.4%	419	104	315
Computer Support Specialists	13,537	33,521	14.8%	2,082	1,998	84
Law Clerks	401	429	0.7%	7	3	4
<b>Librarians</b>	<b>1900</b>	<b>2,266</b>	<b>1.9%</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>Library Assistants, Clerical</b>	<b>2,024</b>	<b>2,580</b>	<b>2.8%</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>98</b>
<b>Library Technicians</b>	<b>1,335</b>	<b>1,763</b>	<b>3.2%</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>37</b>
Office Clerks, General	52,614	71,299	3.6%	3,326	1,869	1,457
Systems Analysts	12,221	27,830	12.8%	1,637	1,561	76
Teachers, Elementary School	20,055	26,286	3.1%	1,086	623	463

Source: Colorado Department of Labor and Employment

## Fast Facts—No. 193, July 1, 2003: Occupational Outlook in Colorado Libraries

**Table 2: Colorado 2001 Wages**

Occupation	Mean Hourly Wage	Median Hourly Wage	Mean Annual Wage
<b>Library Assistants, Clerical</b>	<b>9.61</b>	<b>9.38</b>	<b>19,980</b>
Preschool Teachers, Except Special Education	10.04	9.60	20,880
<b>Library Technicians</b>	<b>12.21</b>	<b>11.95</b>	<b>25,400</b>
Law Clerks	17.13	17.13	35,630
All Occupations	14.08	17.32	36,030
Child, Family, and School Social Workers	18.55	17.81	38,580
<b>Librarians</b>	<b>19.98</b>	<b>19.65</b>	<b>41,570</b>
Computer Support Specialists	21.09	18.67	43,870
Network and Computer System Administrators	30.47	28.97	63,380
Education Administrators, Postsecondary	30.71	27.55	63,880

Are library jobs desirable? Table 2 shows a comparison of library wages with those of other professions and jobs from the 2001-2002 CDLE occupational statistics. Note that librarian positions usually require a Master in Library Science (M.L.S.) degree. The library clerical assistant and technician jobs may require college education or special training.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

### Definitions from the U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics

**Librarians**-Administer libraries and perform related library services. Work in a variety of settings, including public libraries, schools, colleges and universities, museums, corporations, government agencies, law firms, non-profit organizations, and healthcare providers. Tasks may include selecting, acquiring, cataloguing, classifying, circulating, and maintaining library materials; and furnishing reference, bibliographical, and readers' advisory services. May perform in-depth, strategic research, and synthesize, analyze, edit, and filter information. May set up or work with databases and information systems to catalogue and access information.

**Library Assistants, Clerical**-Compile records, sort and shelve books, and issue and receive library materials such as pictures, cards, slides and microfilm. Locate library materials for loan and replace material in shelving area, stacks, or files according to identification number and title. Register patrons to permit them to borrow books, periodicals, and other library materials. (In past statistics this category has been called Library Assistants/Bookmobile Drivers.)

**Library Technicians**-Assist librarians by helping readers in the use of library catalogs, databases, and indexes to locate books and other materials; and by answering questions that require only brief consultation of standard reference. Compile records; sort and shelve books; remove or repair damaged books; register patrons; check materials in and out of the circulation process. Replace materials in shelving area (stacks) or files. Include bookmobile drivers who operate bookmobiles or light trucks that pull trailers to specific locations on a predetermined schedule and assist with providing services in mobile libraries.

### Sources

- Colorado Job and Career Navigator, Occupation Projections available at <http://navigator.cdle.state.co.us/career/occupation.asp>
- Colorado Department of Labor, Occupational Wages: 2001-2002 at <http://navigator.cdle.state.co.us/career/wages.asp#definition1>
- 2001 State Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates: Colorado at [http://stats.bls.gov/oes/2001/oes\\_co.htm#b00-0000](http://stats.bls.gov/oes/2001/oes_co.htm#b00-0000)

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