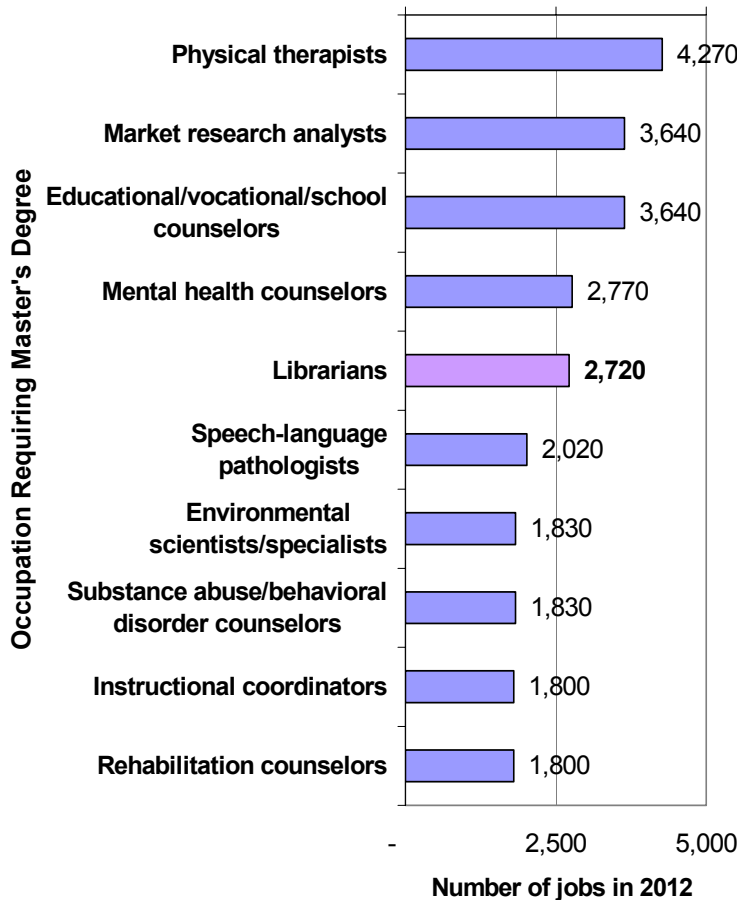


# LIBRARIAN AMONG TOP COLORADO JOBS REQUIRING MASTER'S DEGREE THROUGH 2012

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**Chart 1. Projected Employment by Occupation Requiring a Master's Degree: Colorado, 2012**



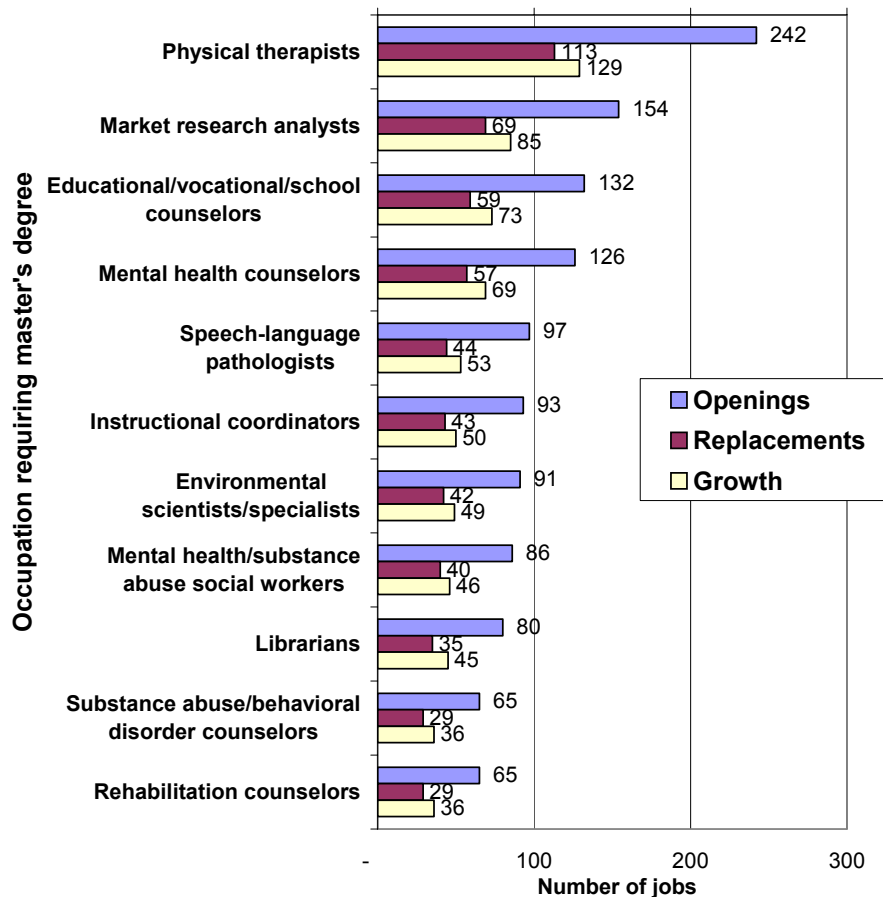
According to the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE), librarian is among the state's top jobs requiring a master's degree through 2012.

Employing a projected 2,720 Coloradans in 2012, librarian ranks fifth on projected employment behind physical therapist, market research analyst, educational counselor, and mental health counselor.\* Rounding out the top 10 master's-degreed jobs will be speech pathologist, environmental

scientist, substance abuse counselor, instructional coordinator, and rehabilitation counselor. (See Chart 1.)



**Chart 2. Average Annual Openings, Replacements and Growth for Occupations Requiring Master's Degree: Colorado, 2002-12**



CDLE also projects the average annual number of openings for each master's-degree occupation, including replacements for vacated existing positions and growth due to the creation of new positions. Librarian ranks ninth for average annual openings through 2012. It is anticipated that the annual average of 80 openings will include 35 replacements and 45 new positions. (See Chart 2.)

As for projected employment, the top jobs based on average annual openings will be physical therapist, market research analyst, educational counselor, and mental health counselor.



These projections indicate that librarianship as a profession is not only here to stay, but that the demand for librarians is likely to continue to grow. This is encouraging news for the field generally and for current and future job-seekers in particular. It is also an upbeat challenge to the pessimism about future job opportunities expressed by some respondents to the survey reported in Retirement, Retention, and Recruitment (the 3 Rs): the Future of Librarianship in Colorado. (Available at:

[http://www.irs.org/documents/fastfacts/216\\_Top\\_Colorado\\_Jobs.pdf](http://www.irs.org/documents/fastfacts/216_Top_Colorado_Jobs.pdf)



\* Technical Note: CDLE's figures cannot be parsed by library sector. Thus, it is not possible to anticipate the extent to which the trends reflected in these projections apply to academic, public, school, and special libraries separately. The fact that it is assumed these positions require a master's degree might call into question whether these projections include school librarians; however, the majority of the state's school librarians have master's degrees. In addition, CDLE's estimate of 2002 librarian employment—2,270—seems reasonable, knowing that academic, public, and school libraries employ approximately 1,400 librarians known to have master's degrees and about 1,850 librarians, including public and school librarians known not to have master's degrees. CDLE's classification of librarian as a position requiring a master's degree is based on the federal Department of Labor's Standard Occupational Classification, which notes that librarian positions usually require a master's degree. This being the case, the 1,850 figure is probably the more appropriate one to use, leaving about 420 jobs to be accounted for by the state's special libraries.

Source: Colorado Labor Market Information, **Occupational Employment Outlook 2002-2012** (Colorado Department of Labor and Employment). Available at:  
<http://www.coworkforce.com/lmi/oeo/Masters%20Degree.htm>.

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