

# Clearer Skies Ahead? Using Statistics from LibraryJobline.org to Gauge Changes in Colorado's Library Job Climate

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LibraryJobline.org, an online resource maintained by the Library Research Service (LRS) at the Colorado State Library, lists job postings from employers in Colorado and beyond.<sup>1</sup> Library Jobline dates back to 2007, offering five years' worth of statistics about Colorado's library job climate.

An analysis of Library Jobline statistics over time, in conjunction with data gathered from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), the American Library Association (ALA), and *Library Journal*, indicates slight improvements to the library job climate in 2011. This *Fast Facts* addresses these improvements as they pertain to the number of job postings, full-time positions, and starting salaries, and provides current job seekers with reason to feel cautiously optimistic about their quests to find library jobs.

## Subscriptions

In 2011, more than 500 employers and 1,600 job seekers—223 of whom joined in 2011—were registered with Library Jobline. Almost two-thirds (63%) of those job seekers were signed up to receive email notifications of new job postings, and another 656 job seekers (39%) had opted into a custom RSS feed to stay abreast of the latest library job opportunities. Library job seekers can also monitor Library Jobline postings via Twitter; in 2011, @LibraryJobline had accrued 224 followers.

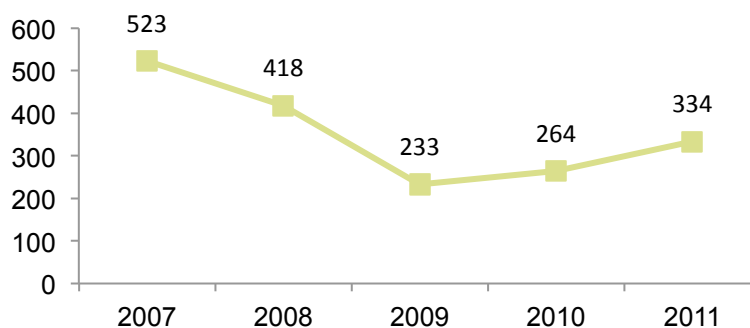
### Quick Look: 2011 Library Jobline Statistics

- Registered employers: 505
- Registered job seekers: 1,663
- Twitter followers (@LibraryJobline): 224
- New job postings: 334

## Job Postings Continue to Rise

Since bottoming out in 2009, the number of annual Library Jobline postings rose 43 percent in 2011, from 233 to 334 (Chart 1). March, May, and June saw the most job postings, or an

**Chart 1**  
**Total Number of Jobs Posted Annually,**  
**2007-2011**



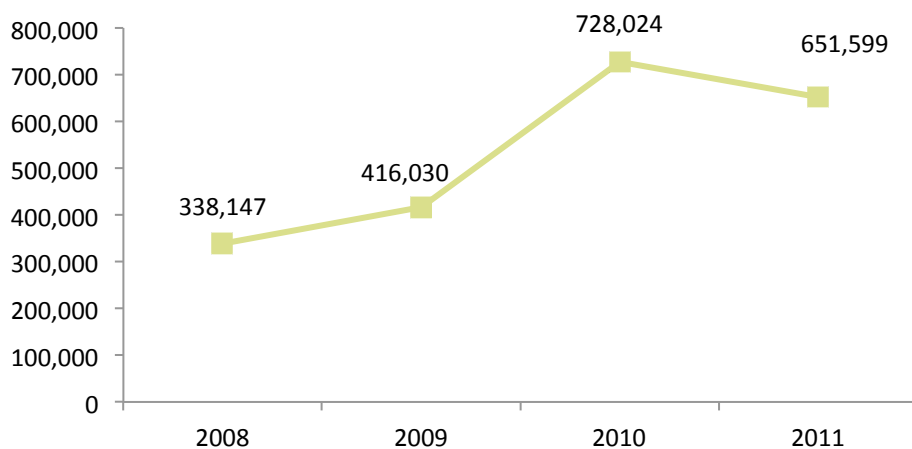
<sup>1</sup> 90 percent of jobs posted in 2011 were for positions located in Colorado.



average of 35 new jobs per month, whereas January, September, and November were the worst months for job seekers, with an average of only 19 new postings per month. As compared to previous years, the monthly average of 26 postings per month is the highest since 2008, which saw an average of 35 new jobs per month.

The number of times that Library Jobline postings were viewed, overall, decreased slightly in 2011, from an all-time high of 728,024 in 2010 to 651,599—a difference of 10 percent (Chart 2). In addition, the number of views per job posting also dropped by almost 30 percent, from an average of 2,757 in 2010 to 1,951 in 2011. While this shift could signify a healthier job market, in which fewer people are looking for open positions, it might also be attributed to the rise in the number of Library Jobline users who receive news about available positions via customized emails, RSS feed, or Twitter, rather than by accessing those postings directly from LibraryJobline.org.

**Chart 2**  
**Total Number of Annual Job Views, 2008-2011\***



\*No job view data is available for 2007.

### Requirements and Preferences

Across all 2011 Library Jobline postings, one third (33%) required applicants to have an ALA-accredited Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) degree or Master of Library Science (MLS) degree. Another 12 percent of jobs preferred candidates who had an MLIS or MLS degree. The remaining 54 percent of job postings did not require an MLIS or MLS degree.

Entry-level library job seekers may be relieved to know that in 2011, only 1 in 4 Library Jobline postings specifically required one or more years of library experience, and only 1 in 5 stated experience as a preference. More than 80 percent of employers did not require professional-level library experience, and 11 percent listed professional-level experience as a preference. Just 1 in 10 postings (38 in total) required one or more years of supervisory experience, while another 11 percent preferred it.



More than one-fifth (22%) of all 2011 postings gave preference to candidates with Spanish-language skills, and 2 percent made Spanish a requirement.

### Full-Time and Permanent Postings

While just over half (53%) of job postings in 2010 were full-time positions, nearly 62 percent of 2011 postings to Library Jobline were for 40-hour-per-week positions. Only 21 postings, a mere 6 percent, were for temporary positions.

#### 2011's Hot Jobs

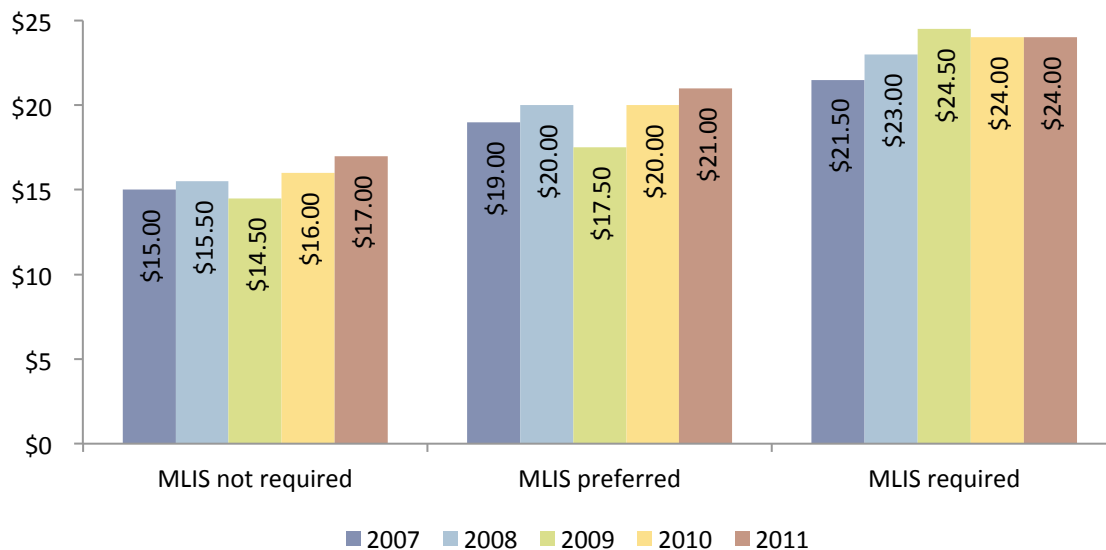
These LibraryJobline.org postings were viewed more than any others in 2011:

- **5,190 views: Librarian, Colorado Heights University**  
*Part-time, starting salary \$15-20/hour, MLIS not required*
- **3,967 views: Manager of Library Services, The Children's Hospital**  
*Full-time, starting salary not specified, MLIS not required*
- **3,067 views: Library Manager, Denver Museum of Nature & Science**  
*Full-time, starting salary not specified, MLIS required*

### Starting Salaries

In 2011, the average starting salary for professional positions was \$24 per hour, which was equal to the starting salary for professional positions in 2010, but still down from the \$24.50 average in 2009 (Chart 3). Wages for positions which did not require an MLIS continued to climb for the third year in a row.

**Chart 3**  
**Average Starting Salaries by Degree Requirements, 2007-2011**



### Related National Data

In 2010, the median annual wage for a librarian, according to BLS,<sup>2</sup> was \$54,500 annually, or an hourly rate of \$26.50. Whereas data from the 2010 ALA-APA Salary Survey<sup>3</sup> (the most recent year available) shows an average starting salary of \$48,317 annually, or \$23.23 per hour. For recent LIS graduates—notably not all librarians—*Library Journal's* “Placements & Salaries Survey 2011”<sup>4</sup> reports an average starting salary of \$42,566, or \$20.46 per hour. Although these data points are valuable in evaluating current and potential salaries for librarian positions, caution should be exercised in comparing them to each other or to Library Jobline data, as they represent different data sets and geographic areas.

### Conclusion

Data collected from Library Jobline shows modest improvement in 2011 for Colorado's library job market, as marked by an increase in job postings. Starting salaries for positions that required an MLS/MLIS remained stable, and they improved slightly for those jobs that did not require an MLIS. While restoring hope for both library job seekers and employers, this information demonstrates that despite some signs of recovery the job market has not fully recuperated.

#### ABOUT THIS ISSUE

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<sup>2</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2012). Occupational Outlook Handbook. Retrieved from <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/education-training-and-library/librarians.htm>

<sup>3</sup> Grady, J. (2010). Librarian salaries jump 3 percent in 2010. *American Libraries*. Retrieved from <http://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/news/ala/librarian-salaries-jump-3-percent-2010>

<sup>4</sup> Maatta, S.L. (2011). The long wait: Placements & salaries survey 2011. *Library Journal*. Retrieved from <http://features.libraryjournal.com/placements-and-salaries/2011-survey/explore-the-data-2/>

