



Te Rau Herenga O Aotearoa | Library and Information Association of New Zealand

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Kia ora, Tālofa lava, lau afioga i le tama'ita'I Karen

**Re: LIS611 Open Polytechnic Te Pūkenga Cataloguing and Classification Paper**

Te Rau Herenga o Aotearoa LIANZA members have raised concerns about the withdrawal of the LIS611 paper from the Open Polytechnic Te Pūkenga syllabus. LIANZA would like to verify the current situation for this paper as it plays a key role in the training of future cataloguers and staff in Aotearoa New Zealand's library and information services.

LIANZA understands that LIS611 may not be offered in 2023/2024 due to insufficient interest. We have a number of questions regarding this situation.

- Can you please confirm what the status of the LIS611 paper is?
- LIANZA are keen to understand if there has or will be a transparent process for reviewing the teaching of cataloguing skills by Open Polytechnic Te Pūkenga now and in the future. Can you explain what your review process might be?
- While there may not be a high demand for cataloguing, has there been any consultation, or will there be any consultation with the sector, on a proposed removal of LIS611?
- Are there any future plans to incorporate cataloguing training into other papers or short-term courses?

LIS611 has an extremely important role to play in the Aotearoa New Zealand library landscape. Its emphasis on being a practical course teaching the basics of what cataloguing is and introducing learners to international guidelines and standards means that individuals who complete the course have a real, practical understanding of metadata description.

The paper also plays an important role in consolidating on-the-job training. Requirements for entry-level cataloguing positions include having a library and information studies qualification, which preferably includes a cataloguing paper or interest in studying towards a library and information qualification.

Finding experienced and qualified cataloguers to fill vacancies for senior positions requiring three or more years of experience is becoming increasingly challenging. Institutions are spending considerable time training new employees with no or little basic cataloguing knowledge.

While the LIANZA Cataloguing Special Interest Group (CatSIG) provides ongoing professional development opportunities for cataloguers, it is not able to support foundational training in cataloguing.

Additionally, LIS611's introduction to Ngā Upoko Tukutuku Māori Subject Headings and its Aotearoa New Zealand focus would be a great loss if individuals interested in metadata description had to explore international options for training.

While many libraries outsource some or most of their cataloguing to vendors, there is still the need for in-house knowledge. Having staff with enough understanding of how metadata is structured is crucial for good-quality metadata. Writing specifications for catalogue records and engaging with vendors to establish requirements relies on metadata being produced that supports users to find what they need in the library's catalogue.

We encourage you to explore ways that the cataloguing and classification paper can remain included in your syllabus so that is accessible to Aotearoa New Zealand's library and information professionals.

LIANZA would be happy to support Open Polytechnic Te Pūkenga exploring the availability and accessibility of cataloguing training with the sector, such as by distributing information or seeking survey feedback from our members for you.

Thank you for taking time to consider our questions and comments,

Ma le fa'aaloalo tele, soifua



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**Te Rau Herenga o Aotearoa LIANZA President**