Librarian Demographics from the Bureau of Labor Statistics

The Bureau of Labor Statistics provides employment information about librarians in the Occupational Outlook Handbook (OOH) and also in the Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey (CPS). The data in these two sources come from two different surveys. The surveys have different purposes, samples, and results.

The Occupational Outlook Handbook (OOH) provides information about how to become a librarian, lists average pay and gives employment estimates. The data represented in the OOH comes from the Occupational Employment Statistics Survey. The semiannual mail survey of 200,000 employers is designed to produce employment estimates and wages for about 800 occupations, including librarians.

The Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey (CPS) tables provide the number of librarians, including age ranges, as self-reported in interviews of a sample of 60,000 households in 754 sample areas. The survey is conducted each month by the U.S. Census Bureau for the Bureau of Labor Statistics and provides comprehensive data on the labor force. The employed and the unemployed are classified by such characteristics as age, sex, race, family relationship, marital status, occupation, and industry attachment. These areas are chosen to represent all counties and independent cities in the United States, with coverage in 50 States and the District of Columbia.