

National Shortage of Librarians and Other Information Specialists

- * It is estimated that 58% of professional librarians will reach the age of 65 between 2005 and 2019.
- * According to a *Library Journal* survey (2000), 40% of Library Directors intend to retire within the next nine years. Thus, the loss of as many as 68% of the current cohort by 2019 is projected.
- * Currently, there are critical shortages of professional librarians in managing computerized services, library administration, technical services, and children's services (in both school and public libraries).
- * Additionally, the Information Age has opened up thousands of new jobs in the private sector, not just in corporate libraries but in all aspects of information collection, organization, and dissemination.
- * Each year thousands of jobs go unfilled. As an example, SIRLS graduated 87 students last year; 4000 jobs were posted on our web site.
- * There are 125,153 professional librarians in the United States. Of these, less than 3% are Hispanic and Native Americans make up less than 0.6 %.
- * As a result of this critical shortage and under the leadership of First Lady Laura Bush, the President's 2003 Budget requests a \$10 Million initiative to educate and train librarians.

1/17/03

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