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How to Stay Afloat in the Academic Library Job Pool

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what teachers are looking for when they assign homework, because it relates directly to what students need and expect when they come to libraries for homework help. But the book's deep foray into pedagogical theory may leave some library staff feeling overwhelmed and out of their element. Nevertheless, the main message about nurturing relationships between librarians, teachers, and students is not lost.

Chapter 2 outlines important necessities such as assessing needs, setting goals, and developing a service philosophy. The author recognizes that the most important element of stellar service is staff, and she provides a brief outline of training topics for homework helpers. These include not only the requisite guidance on how to interpret homework assignments but also include coverage of cultural and sexual orientation diversity, youth culture, and technology.

The technology section holds no surprises, describing equipment and software requirements (including photo and video editing) for within the library walls. For remote support, the author provides and describes a variety of suggestions that could be employed to support patrons virtually, from pathfinders and RSS feeds to chat reference and social networking. The marketing section offers many good ideas on how to get the word out. Of course, evaluation, an essential piece of the programming puzzle, is emphasized as well.

Intner covers the possibilities for homework help thoroughly, reinforcing the concept of process: Many libraries provide homework support, but being aware of what we do, how we do it and *why* we do it, should be key. This book is not ground-breaking, but most readers will find something new to consider and use.—*Sarah J. Hart, Acting Children's Services Coordinator, Brampton Library, Brampton, Ontario, Canada*

How to Stay Afloat in the Academic Library Job Pool. Ed. Teresa Y. Neely. Chicago: ALA, 2011. 152 p. Paper \$50 (ISBN 978-0-8389-1080-1).

For many master of library science degree candidates, the promise of a position in an academic library is a goal that is avidly pursued. The collegial atmosphere, the available resources, and the opportunity to perform exemplary reference, cataloging, or information technology work with talented students and faculty—these are some of the reasons that many library school graduates want to pursue careers in academic libraries. These reasons also are valid for experienced librarians who want to find work in an academic setting. What can these two groups of librarians—inexperienced and experienced—do to succeed in their goal of attaining an academic library position?

Teresa Y. Neely, the editor of *How to Stay Afloat in the Academic Library Job Pool*, has written a useful and resourceful book that will assist both sets of librarians in their quest for an academic library position. Basing her book on her experience as a committee search member at the University of New Mexico library, the author first provides the reader with a sobering and honest analysis and overview of the state of hiring for entry-level librarians in academia (hopefully not deterring

any potential candidates from applying for job openings!). Further chapters cover reading job advertisements effectively for the best possible candidate match, compiling an effective and outstanding application packet, approaching and conducting the interview process successfully, and negotiating potential job offers to one's best advantage. Throughout the book, Neely writes with honesty, sincerity, and authority; she includes many relevant additional resources at the end of each chapter, as well as hypothetical interview questions and other helpful tips and techniques that encompass all aspects of the application and interview processes. Although brief, the book is full of well-organized information that potential candidates can access quickly and easily.

For those anxious academic library job candidates, both new and experienced, Neely's *How to Stay Afloat in the Academic Library Job Pool* is an essential tool in the search for the academic library position they aspire to obtain. Highly recommended.—*Larry Cooperman, Adjunct Faculty Librarian, University of Central Florida, Orlando, Florida*

The Library Renovation, Maintenance, and Construction Handbook. Donald A. Barclay and Eric D. Scott. New York: Neal-Schuman, 2011. 212 p. Paper \$125 (ISBN 978-1-5557-0717-0).

Most librarians gain knowledge about buildings and construction only by going through a renovation project—meaning that the “lessons learned” come only after the fact. *The Library Renovation, Maintenance, and Construction Handbook* can remedy this knowledge gap, as it is a great starting place for anyone undertaking responsibility for a building or renovation endeavor. This well-organized book divides the stages of the building process into manageable pieces and introduces the requisite vocabulary and concepts, interspersing them with useful and convincing anecdotal tidbits from the authors, who gained “ground-up” experience in designing the first library for the University of California's Merced campus in 2005.

The table of contents and index allow readers easily to skim the chapters in each of the three parts of the book: “The Basics of Construction and Renovation,” “Library-Specific Construction and Renovation,” and “Maintaining an Existing Library Building.” For example, in the first chapter, the authors explain the elements of a successful building project: design, construction, and commissioning. A chapter on “Building System Basics” gives an overview of the different types of buildings and the mechanical systems inside, such as electricity and plumbing. However, information on lighting is notably lacking, given the many choices one can make and mistakes that can occur.

Chapter 3 provides valuable details and resources about architectural plans, codes, and the construction profession. Specific public and nonpublic areas, furniture and fixtures, and navigation aids are briefly described in part 2 and include many useful tips on topics ranging from shelving capacity to digital signage. Safety and security and green libraries are