An Introduction to Academic Librarianship

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Today’s Presenters

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An Introduction to Academic Librarianship
Agenda

• Characteristics of Institutions and Libraries
• Status of Librarians
• Positions and Roles in Academic Libraries
• Learning More
About You

Where are you in terms of your career or professional experience? (check all that apply)

- I’m in library school and interested in academic librarianship.
- I’ve completed an MLS or equivalent.
- I’m looking for an academic library job.
- I’ve worked or am working in an academic library (professional or paraprofessional).
- I’ve got public/school/special library work experience, but not academic library work experience.
The Mission(s) of Academic Libraries

• Support the academic pursuits of students, faculty, and staff
Academic Library Users
Characteristics of Institutional Settings

• Carnegie classifications
  • http://carnegieclassifications.iu.edu/index.php
Characteristics of Institutional Settings

• Public vs. Private
• Religious affiliation
Institution Size and Libraries

- Number of libraries
- Departments
- Colleagues
- Consortia
- Level of coursework
Institutional Reporting Structure

- Provost OR
  - Dean OR
  - Chief Academic Officer
- Library Director OR
  - Dean of Libraries OR
  - University Librarian
Status of Librarians

Before you accept a position, be sure to know:
• what kind of status you will have
• whether all professional librarians at the institution share that status
• requirements and expectations for evaluation and promotion

• Faculty status and the tenure process
• Professional Staff and other designations
Status of Librarians

How many academic librarians have faculty status?

• 46.4% at doctoral/research libraries
• 46.1% at masters/comprehensive universities
• 28.6% at 4-yr/baccalaureate schools
• 58.5% at community colleges
Status of Librarians

Faculty status and the tenure process

Rank
• Assistant
• Associate
• Full

Evaluation
• Research/Scholarship/Professional Service
• Teaching
• Service to the College/University
Status of Librarians

Professional Staff

• Annual performance evaluations
• Continuing contracts
• Ranks and Promotion
• More information on components of faculty status:
For Your Consideration

• Preferences vs. Expectations
• Support for professional development
• Work-Life balance
Positions and Roles

At most academic libraries:

- Access Services/Circulation
- Instruction/Reference/Public Services
- Collection Development
- Cataloging/Metadata/Technical Services
  - E-Resources
  - Systems
  - Web
- Archives/Special Collections
Positions and Roles

Specialist Positions:

• Assessment/Data
• First-Year Experience/Student Success
• Instructional Design
• Makerspaces/Technology
• Marketing/Outreach
• Online/Distance Education
• Scholarly Communication
For Your Consideration

• Day-to-day activity
• Collaboration
• Variety

Try This

• Read job advertisements
• Informational interviews
• Social media, online journal clubs, Twitter chats
A Year in the Life of an Academic Librarian

- Academic calendar reigns supreme
Trends in Academic Libraries and Higher Education

• ACRL Research Planning and Review Committee 2018 Top Trends in Academic Libraries

• Chronicle of Higher Education 2019 Trends Report:
  https://www.chronicle.com/interactives/trends2019

Tips for Learning More

• Explore and join professional organizations
• Attend conferences
• Subscribe to listservs
  • ALA: http://www.ala.org/groups/communicate/emaildiscussionlists
• Read about academic libraries
  • Library Journal’s “Academic Newswire” newsletter
• Read about higher education
  • The Chronicle of Higher Education
  • InsideHigherEd.com
More Tips for Learning More

• Selected open-access journals
  • In the Library with the Lead Pipe
  • Communications in Information Literacy
  • Weave: Journal of Library User Experience

• Selected newsletters
  • ACRL Update
  • Five Things You Should Read About… (ACRL Instruction Section)
  • Keeping Up With… (ACRL)

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