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Professional Development

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Professional Development

WANTED:

Seeking well-rounded and enthusiastic librarian for entry-level, temporary, non-tenure position. MLS and subject masters required, preferably in quantum physics; must speak, read and write at least three obscure languages; demonstrated experience in nanotechnology preferred.

Should have a full portfolio of publications, presentations and patents. Experience working with international media; expertise in plumbing and custodial arts; must be a gourmet chef and possess a commercial driver's license.

Schedule is evening and weekends only. Contact library HR for supplemental questions, FBI background requirements, and to schedule a lighting-speed civil service exam with Alec Trebeck.

IT'S TRUE:

Oregon libraries sometimes want the impossible. Competition for full-time library positions in Oregon can be fierce, and it can be disheartening to work hard on a lengthy application and not even receive an interview.

This Quarterly looks at library employment from many different angles. Carolee Hirsch exposes the inner workings of the hiring process and offers tips to help land the job that's right for you.

Job hunters and comfortably employed alike will benefit from learning about the wide range of jobs in libraries. Lori Wamsley, Lisa R. Todd, and Perri Parise explore alternatives to the traditional full-time librarian position, while Pam North makes the case for moving into management.

Regardless of one's employment status, library staff everywhere need to try new experiences, invest in their skills, and learn more about themselves. Roberta Richards, Emily Papagni, Angela Weyrens, and Mike Larsen all discuss growth opportunities outside the normal workday.

Kevin Moore reflects back on his first year as a librarian, while Allen McKiel looks forward to the future of academic libraries and the skills that library staff will need to possess.

Want to know what library directors want? We asked a number of public and academic library directors what they are looking for in new hires. A sampling of the answers are sprinkled throughout this issue. Not surprisingly, the valued qualities are the same regardless of library setting, technology or subject expertise: comfort with change, innate curiosity, a passion for service, and excellent interpersonal skills were on everyone's list. Not a single person mentioned nanotechnology or baking skills. Keep an eye on the Contributions section in future issues of the OLA Hotline at <http://olahotline.wordpress.com> for the complete library director interviews.

We hope you enjoy this issue.

Guest editors

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Skills you are looking for in new librarians

I'd say more than skills, to the degree possible, I'm interested in less tangible things like attitude (excited about the future, good humor, collaborative), judgement, flexibility, curious—interested in learning new things.

—VAILEY OEHLKE
Deputy Director
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