

LIBRARIANS 101

WHEN PEOPLE THINK OF LIBRARIANS THEY OFTEN PICTURE THE FOLLOWING: AN OLDER WOMAN WITH GLASSES AND A CARDIGAN.



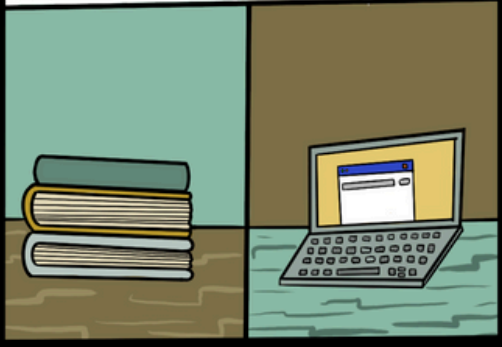
WHO MAINLY SPENDS HER TIME SHUSHING PEOPLE, READING AND SITTING AT A DESK.



LIKE ALL STEREOTYPES, SOME FOLKS DO FIT THE MOLD DEMOGRAPHICALLY, THE REALITIES OF THE JOB ARE MUCH DIFFERENT THAN WHAT FOLKS EXPECT.



THE TOOLS LIBRARIANS USE MIGHT LOOK DIFFERENT IN THE DIGITAL AGE, BUT THE BASIC GOAL OF ENSURING INFORMATION IS ACCESSIBLE AND DISCOVERABLE REMAINS THE SAME.



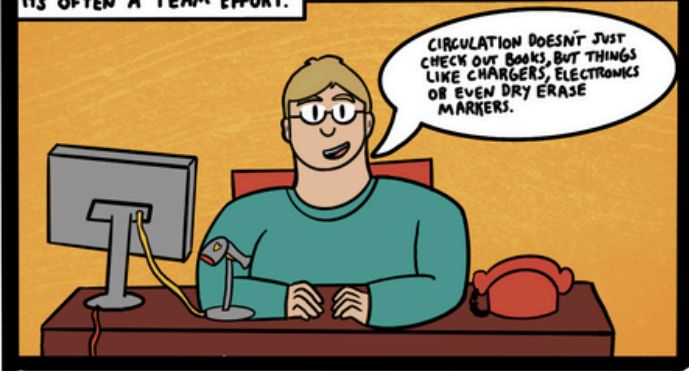
TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL, ALONG WITH OTHER, LIBRARY FUNCTIONS, THERE'S ACTUALLY A WIDE VARIETY OF TYPES OF LIBRARIANS



LET'S TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT SOME OF THE VARIETY OUT THERE...



ONE OF THE MOST WELL KNOWN FUNCTIONS OF A LIBRARY IS CIRCULATION: LENDING OUT MATERIALS TO PATRONS. SOMETIMES CIRCULATION IS OVERSEEN BY A LIBRARIAN, SOMETIMES BY STAFF, BUT ITS OFTEN A TEAM EFFORT.



LIKE CIRCULATION, ACQUISITIONS CAN ALSO BE A TEAM EFFORT. ACQUISITIONS INVOLVES ORDERING AND ACQUIRING NEW MATERIAL FOR THE LIBRARY (1).



SERIALS REFERS TO JOURNALS, MAGAZINES, OR MOST THINGS THAT ARE PUBLISHED UNDER ONE TITLE WITH SEPARATE ISSUES OR VOLUMES (2).



IN ACADEMIC LIBRARIES, SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION LIBRARIANS HELP STUDENTS AND FACULTY ALIKE PUBLISH THEIR WORK. THIS CAN BE BY HELPING LOCATE JOURNALS TO PUBLISH IN OR MANAGING AN INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORY.



CHILDREN'S LIBRARIANS WORK WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS. THEY HELP SELECT MATERIAL FOR DIFFERENT AGE GROUPS AND ORGANIZE EVENTS AND OUTREACH FOR THESE PATRONS. STORY TIME FOR YOUNG KIDS IS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF AN EVENT THEY RUN.



SPECIALIST LIBRARIANS WORK IN SPECIAL LIBRARIES, WHERE THEY OFTEN SPECIALIZE IN A TOPIC OR FIELD. LAW LIBRARIANS AND MEDICAL LIBRARIANS FALL INTO THIS CATEGORY.



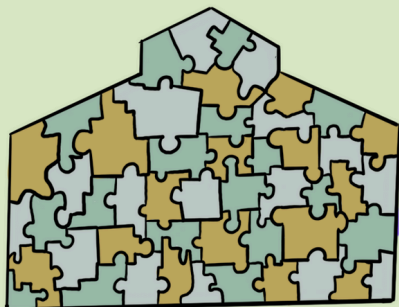
ARCHIVISTS AREN'T THE SAME AS LIBRARIANS, BUT THEY OFTEN HAVE THE SAME MASTERS DEGREE. THEY ARE SPECIALISTS IN PRESERVING MATERIAL AND HELPING PEOPLE ACCESS IT (4)



REFERENCE LIBRARIANS, LIKE MYSELF, HELP PEOPLE DO RESEARCH AND FIND MATERIALS. THEY MAY ALSO SPECIALIZE IN A TOPIC OR SUBJECT AREA.



THERE ARE OTHER TYPES OF LIBRARIANS NOT MENTIONED HERE, LIKE LIBRARY DIRECTORS, AS WELL AS WELL AS TASKS THAT ARE DONE BY STAFF. BOTH LIBRARIANS AND LIBRARY STAFF ARE ESSENTIAL TO KEEPING A LIBRARY RUNNING.



THE THINGS THAT TIE LIBRARIES TOGETHER ARE OUR COMMITMENT TO SOME SHARED IDEALS (5).

ALA

THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION HAS A WHOLE LIST OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES ON ITS WEBSITE.

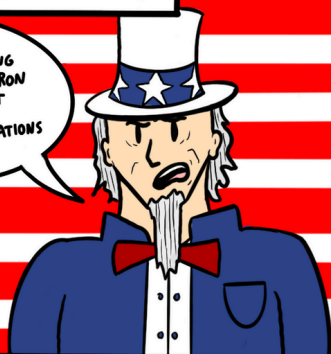
EQUITY IS IMPORTANT TO LIBRARIANS: WE WANT MATERIALS TO BE ACCESSIBLE TO EVERYONE, REGARDLESS OF THEIR BACKGROUND.

THERE ARE EFFORTS TO ALSO RECRUIT LIBRARIANS FROM UNDERREPRESENTED GROUPS (6).

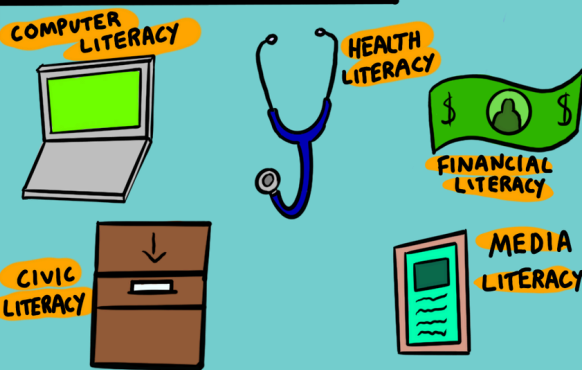


LIBRARIES SEEK TO PROTECT INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM AND PRESERVE PRIVACY. THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OPPOSED THE PATRIOT ACT AND IN 2006, FOUR CONNECTICUT LIBRARIANS WENT TO COURT REGARDING GAG ORDERS (7).

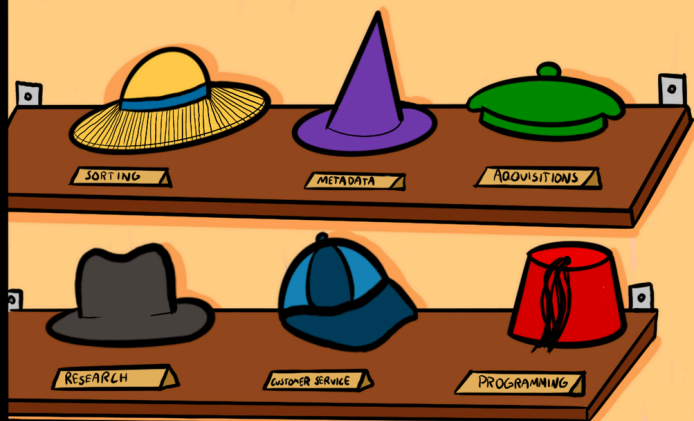
I WASN'T TRYING TO SPY ON PATRON RECORDS... I JUST WANTED... UH... BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS



LIBRARIES ALSO PROMOTE LITERACY, AND NOT JUST FOR BOOKS.



TEACHING, INSTRUCTION, BUDGET MANAGEMENT, PROGRAMMING, RESEARCH: ALL THESE SKILLS ARE ALL NEEDED TO KEEP LIBRARIES RUNNING.



AND ONLY ONE OF THEM IS, ON RARE OCCASIONS, SHUSHING PEOPLE.

REMEMBER
QUIET ON THE 2nd
FLOOR!

SHUSH~

THE END

Sources:

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6. Vinopal J. The Quest for Diversity in Library Staffing: From Awareness to Action – In the Library with the Lead Pipe. In the Library With The Lead Pipe. January 13, 2016. Accessed September 25, 2024. <https://www.inthelibrarywiththeleadpipe.org/2016/quest-for-diversity/>
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