

1. Job Title: Library Director

2. Brief description of job responsibilities:

All supervision of library staff, including recruiting, training, and evaluating – materials selection – cataloging – prepare and administer budget – staff support for lib. board – responsible for building maintenance – supervise all public relations work – work with other libraries and lib. organizations regionally to promote lib. services –develop policies and procedures – prepare varied reports involving dept. activities for local and state organizations.

3. Brief description of their library training/education:

All on the job, correspondence courses through Univ. of Idaho (no longer available), and all possible training.

4. How long have you worked in this library?

22 years. YIKES.

5. Have you worked in other libraries? If yes, what types?

The usual aide in school libraries. In Tok, AK set up a small tribal library from donated books (probably not too professional, but I did attempt to follow procedures that I found in a how-to book)

6. What do they enjoy most about your job?

Working with patrons, working with staff, coll. development, and programming.

7. What do you like the least about your job?

Having many more dreams that I have resources; frustrated at not being able to give the community all that the library should give. This is shared by all librarians, big or small, rich or poor. Ever optimistic, though!

8. What do you see as the biggest challenges facing your library in the next year or two.

Determining the level of resources necessary to operate the new library, and obtaining those resources.

9. What do you wish you had learned more about public library work before they began working in a public library?

Politics and image. Even before the fiasco of the new library building project, politics have been a limiting factor in our success. This is because of the image community leaders have about libraries and librarians. In no other city department do we see the micromanaging that we see in libraries. Leaders think that our jobs are easy, straightforward, kind of cute, and than anyone could do them. Even those who have no idea as to what 'library' means. When the library suddenly, for whatever reason, has an interesting event or issue, the experts come out of the woodwork. They feel comfortable in criticizing librarians both privately and publicly. They feel comfortable in demanding procedures that are not even close to appropriate. Library boards have no power, which is an unfortunate lesson for idealistic/giving citizens who sign on to those boards.

(I'm sure that it is the same everywhere, especially in the smaller libraries. I know for a fact that Oregon Trail Lib. Dist. (Marsha Richmond, Boardman) is going through the same nightmare now. I know that the librarians in Chelan, Wash. almost quit when their new building opened.)

I started as a part-time, min. wage shelver here, working up to director, and for 20 years looked forward to coming to work every day. There were the occasional events that brought turmoil (district project, threat of EOU takeover, all of the new building siting committee frustrations), but having a new toy in the playroom (the new building) has brought out the best and, even more apparent, the worst in the kids fighting over the right to own that toy. The politics, by which I mean bullying, takes away the love of going to work. Unfortunate.

I could go on and on, but you get the idea.

10. If you could change something about their current library and/or their current job, what would they be?

More understanding of the need for space and resources for the promotion of books, reading, and other life and technology skills. The new building is all about honoring living and dead people and architecture, and not about the excitement and importance of reading.