



THE
PUBLIC
LIBRARY
of Cincinnati
and
Hamilton County

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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

March 12, 2004

Make a Difference--Become a Librarian or Work in the Library Field

- *Spotlight on Careers Open House*: Saturday, April 17, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Main Library to Explore a Career at the Library
- *Librarianship 101 Recruitment Meeting*: Monday, April 19, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Main Library to Explore Options for Becoming a Librarian

Today's library worker is in no way parallel to the crotchety "library cop" in the infamous *Seinfeld* episode or the dizzy Marion from the *Music Man*. Instead "she" is oftentimes a "he", is trendy, a technology wiz, creative, knowledgeable, and has long arms that extend into the community the Library serves. What librarians often aren't, however, are representative of the community served.

The Public Library of Cincinnati & Hamilton County has received a \$20,000 grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to promote 21st century librarianship among minorities. IMLS is an independent Federal grant-making agency dedicated to creating and sustaining a nation of learners. If you're interested in pursuing a career in the field of librarianship or another related job at the library, there's never been a better time!

A Library Career Open House and a Recruitment Meeting for Librarianship, *Librarianship 101*, will be held at the Main Library, 800 Vine Street, and will explore what options are available to those who want to work at the Library, from becoming a librarian to working as a library services assistant, or any job in between.

Today's librarians are a fascinating and diverse group of people working at a broad range of jobs in public, academic and institutional settings. Using cutting-edge technology and extensive databases, many of today's librarians are the ultimate search engines for clients who range from research scientists to the general public. Others produce web sites that bring around-the-clock library service to customers with home or office computers. Of course, a library career still offers ample opportunities to conduct a storyhour for children, answer reference questions or plan programs for adults.

It's easier than you might think to become a librarian. If you've already graduated from college you don't need to invest in a new undergraduate degree. If you're a high school student you can pick

just about any major for your undergraduate years. What is required to become a Librarian is a Masters Degree in Library Science.

The Library is holding a *Spotlight on Careers Open House* in the Atrium of the Main Library on Saturday, April 17 from 10:00 a.m. –2:00 p.m. Attendees will be able to speak to various Library employees, see what career potential the Library offers, and meet with graduate school recruiters, as well as see librarians in action presenting programs and answering interesting reference questions. For more information, call the Library's Human Resources Department at (513) 369-6968.

Additionally, anyone interested in becoming a librarian should attend the *Recruitment Meeting Librarianship: 101* on Monday, April 19 from 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. in the Main Library's Huenefeld Tower Room, located on the third floor of the South Building. Call the Library's Human Resources Department Monday through Friday at (513) 369-6968. Reservations are encouraged.

"Big Picture" meetings will be held at the Main Library every five to six weeks beginning May 11, 2004 through May 2005 to pique the interest of minorities who may not have otherwise considered librarianship. Participants will learn about various areas of librarianship such as school library media, information brokers, academic librarians, special librarians in law firms or medical facilities, and public librarians. They will also hear about tuition assistance from the Library's grant, library schools, and financial assistance from a variety of sources. Opportunities for job shadowing, volunteering, internships, and possible employment prospects will be presented.

Myths and Facts about Librarianship

- "Librarians just don't make enough money." Salaries vary geographically and by position. In 2004, average salaries ranged from \$35,000 for beginning librarians to \$100,000 for directors. Advancement in the field of librarianship offers managerial, administrative and director level positions in private, public and academic sectors.
- "Librarians just shelve and check out books." Librarians have been at the forefront of fighting censorship, challenging the Children's Internet Protection Act, as well as provide public access to information through technology and print sources. Librarians anticipate, investigate, evaluate, and communicate information requests to persons around the world.
- "Library school is way too expensive." All graduate degrees come with price tag, but library schools and library professional organizations such as the American Library Association (ALA) offer generous scholarships, assistantships and grants to help with tuition.
- "You don't really need an advanced degree to be a librarian." Actually you do for many reasons. Most librarians combine their Bachelor's Degree (generally in a subject area) with the MLS and serve as a subject specialist - one who not only knows about the subject in depth, but can access information on that subject for others. Librarianship is about accessing and evaluating information and then helping others to understand that information need.

I tell every child that I read a book to or tell a story to that my purpose as a children's librarian is to "plant a seed in their heads that will grow into a love for reading in their hearts."

--Arnice Smith, *Children's Librarian, College Hill Branch*

Anyone interested in attending the Open House or the Recruitment meeting, *Librarianship 101* should RSVP by April 10 to the Human Resources Department at (513) 369-6968 or E-mail to: humanresources@cincinnatiLibrary.org

✓ **Information about events at the Main Library and 41 branch libraries is available on the Internet site: www.CincinnatiLibrary.org.**