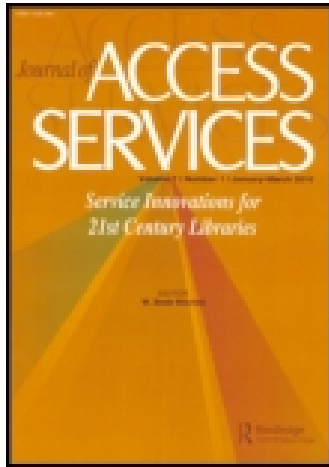


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### A Review of "The New Academic Librarian: Essays on Changing Roles and Responsibilities"

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The content of this book would be extremely useful for any librarian who is considering recruitment of volunteers to enhance library services. The topics covered present essential information to consider for the implementation of successful programs. The book is also well organized and includes a very detailed table of contents, making it easy to navigate to material on specific topics of interest. The text also presents concrete information relative to the King County Library System example in the appendix, which is followed by an index and note about the authors.

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Peacock, R. and Wurm, J. (Eds.). (2013). *The New Academic Librarian: Essays on Changing Roles and Responsibilities*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Company, Inc.

Having served as an academic librarian for more than 20 years, I have lived through a great deal of change in the profession, so I was looking forward to reading this book, in order to see if what others have observed correlates with my experience.

The first essay, which outlines the multitude of tasks that aggregate under the title of “Circulation Supervisor,” was of immediate interest to me as a Head of Access Services. Here in our Library, the Circulation Supervisor tends to get an amazing array of tasks not in her job description dumped on her nevertheless, and in the case of the essay author (Melissa Aho, who is currently at the University of Minnesota), things are no different there! She also discusses the ongoing debate about whether a professional librarian is actually needed in the role of Circulation Supervisor. At my university, we decided long ago that the answer was no—however, to be honest, we depend on all our paraprofessional supervisors to look and act like real librarians, and I have wondered over the years if we made the wrong decision. Aho also has observed the gradual transition of the Circulation Desk to the de facto Reference Desk, as more librarians have taken on departmental liaison duties and less frequently sit behind desks waiting for people to ask them a question. To get a holistic picture of what the Circulation Desk is “about” these days, she administered a survey to a group of library employees, and the answers are very illuminating. All in all, this is a very thorough and interesting look at how today’s Circulation Desk operates.

I have seen entire books devoted to the subject of the second piece in this book, which is using social media to market libraries and increase

outreach. The authors summarize the history of the development of social media and then describe best practices for making the most of it at your library—again, a very useful and interesting contribution. Subsequent essays, each of which include substantial bibliographies, deal with the jobs of First Year Experience Librarian, Information Literacy Instructor, Outreach Librarian, “Third Place” Librarian, Digital Projects Librarian, Scholarly Communications Librarian, Copyright Librarian, Data Librarian, Ship Librarian (aboard a Maritime College training ship), GIS Librarian, Special Collections Librarian, Special Librarian (for the Hospitality Management College at the University of Central Florida), Grants Librarian, Digital Media Instructor (yes, a librarian!), Web Librarian, Electronic Resources Librarian, and Metadata Librarian. As most readers will recognize, many of these jobs did not even exist or barely existed a decade ago, which makes this book a very useful guide for someone just setting out upon a career in academic librarianship. This would be a wonderful gift for a person who is just starting Library School, and could even be a good textbook for an introductory class in Academic Librarianship. I highly recommend this purchase.

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