



Title	Careers in academic libraries
Author(s)	Woo, EMW
Citation	Hong Kong Library Association Library Education and Career Forum, Hong Kong, 30 July 2011
Issued Date	2011
URL	http://hdl.handle.net/10722/193148
Rights	Creative Commons: Attribution 3.0 Hong Kong License



Careers in Academic Libraries

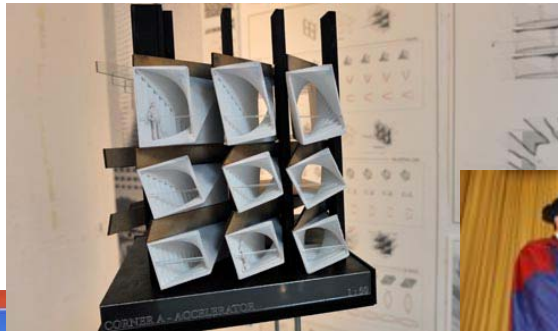
Esther Woo

Administrative Services Team Leader
The University of Hong Kong Libraries

30 July 2011

Why choose academic libraries?

- Intellectually stimulating work environment
 - Support learning, teaching and research needs of scholars and students
 - In search of excellence; be creative and innovative; embrace for change



Why choose academic libraries?

- **Wide range of learning opportunities**
 - Wide variety of services (general vs. specialized library functions)
 - New services by means of advanced technology (e.g. computing and IT, AV, RFID, building automation, etc.)
 - Staff development support and programs
 - Access to library collections
- **Competitive pay and benefits**
 - University pay scales/salary bands, gratuity or provident fund
 - Medical, dental, different kinds of leave

Academic libraries in Hong Kong

- Universities Grants Committee (UGC) funded:

- Chinese University of Hong Kong



- City University of Hong Kong



- Hong Kong Baptist University



- Hong Kong Institute of Education



Academic libraries in Hong Kong

- Universities Grants Committee (UGC) funded:

- Hong Kong Polytechnic University



- Hong Kong University of Science & Technology



- Lingnan University



- University of Hong Kong



Academic libraries in Hong Kong

- Others include:

- Hong Kong Academy Of Performing Arts



- Hong Kong Shue Yan University



- Open University of Hong Kong



- Chu Hai College of Higher Education



珠海學院
CHU HAI COLLEGE
OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Qualifications and Experience Required For Professional Ranks at HKUL

**Good first degree + recognized professional
qualification in librarianship (M. L. S. or equivalent)**

University Librarian
(≈Professor)

**+ 10 years of managerial
level experience**

Deputy Librarian
(≈Associate Professor)

**+ 10 years of experience (5
at managerial level)**

Associate Librarian
(≈Assistant /Associate
Professor)

+ 8 years of experience

Assistant Librarian I
(≈Assistant/Associate
Professor)

+ 5 years of experience

Assistant Librarian II
(≈Assistant Professor)

+ 1 year of experience

Qualifications and Experience Required For Paraprofessional or Support Staff Ranks at HKUL

Preferably some library experience, computer skills,
language (English and Putonghua) skills

Senior Library Assistant
(≈Executive Officer)

Library Assistant I
(≈Clerical Officer I)

Library Assistant
(≈Clerical Officer II)

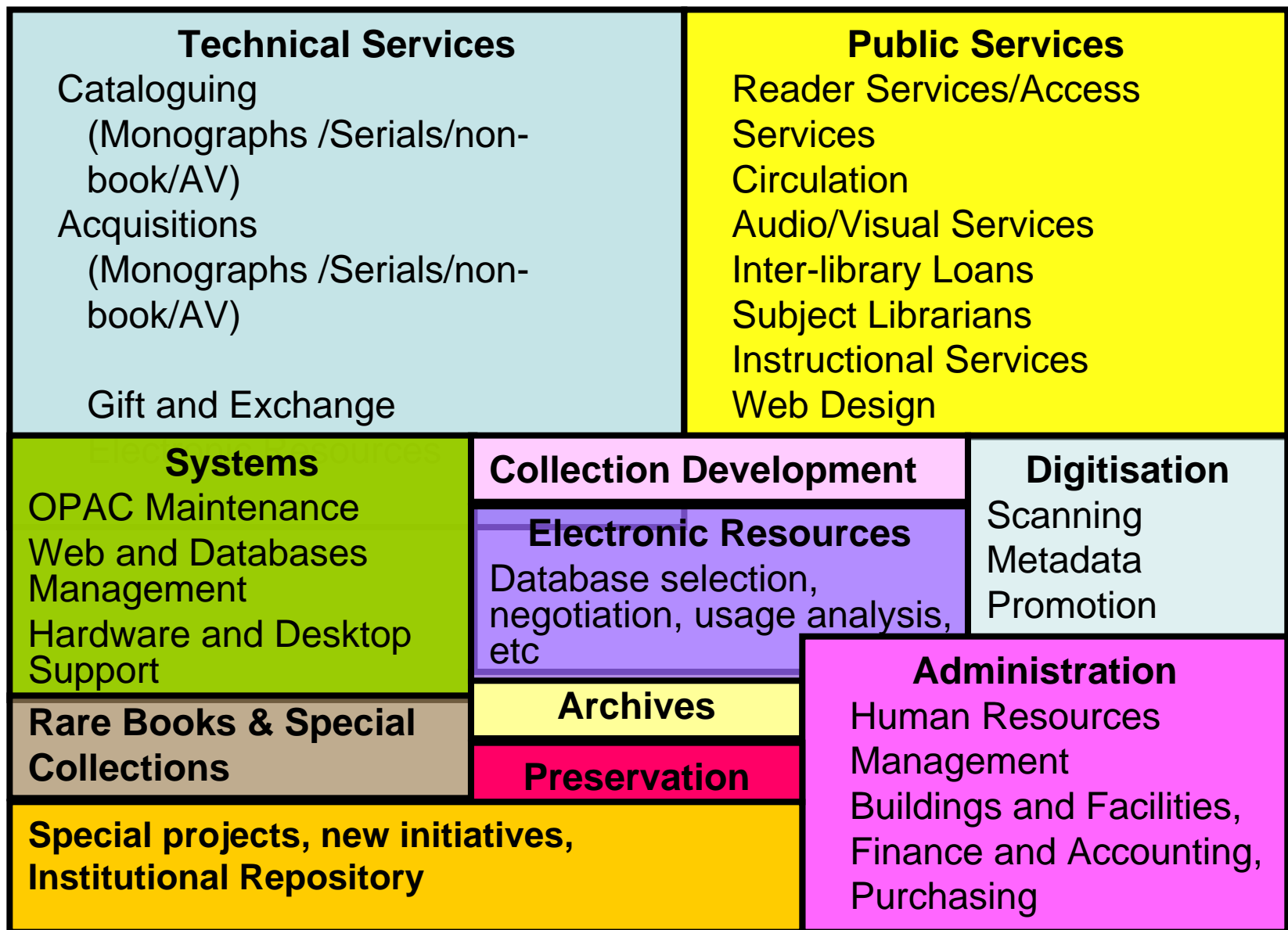
Junior Library Assistant
(≈Office Assistant)

**Degree OR diploma in librarianship
OR highly specialized library-related
skills, with substantial post-
qualification experience in a
supervisory position**

**Degree OR diploma in librarianship
with relevant post-qualification
experience**

**5 passes in HKCEE OR recognized
certificate for library assistants**

Form 3 standard



Typical Positions in Academic Libraries

More positions...

- Computer Officers/IT Managers
- Technicians (Computer and IT, AV)
- Public relations, marketing and fund raising
- Project Managers
- Building and facility managers/officers
- Administrators and Executive Officers

Today's academic librarian?



21st Century Academic Librarian Skills

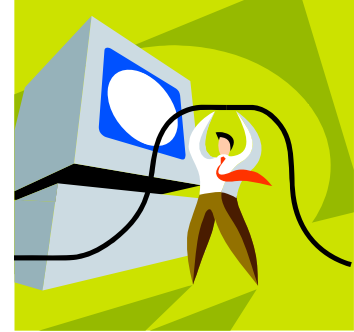
- Ability to embrace change
- Comfort in the online medium
- Ability to troubleshoot **new technologies**
- Ability to easily learn **new technologies**
- Ability to keep up with new ideas in technology and librarianship (enthusiasm for learning)
- Critical of technologies and ability to compare technologies
 - From Meredith Farkas' Blog
 - <http://meredith.wolfwater.com/wordpress/index.php/2006/07/>

More 21st Century Academic Librarian Skills

- Project management skills
- Ability to question and evaluate library services
- Ability to evaluate the needs of all stakeholders
- Vision to translate traditional library services into the online medium
- Ability to sell ideas/library services
 - From Meredith Farkas' Blog
 - <http://meredith.wolfwater.com/wordpress/index.php/2006/07/17/skills-for-the-21st-century-librarian/>



Also essential



- High level communication and interpersonal skills
- Team spirit
- Leadership and facilitation
- Enthusiasm/passion to the profession
- Creative and critical thinking
- Problem solving skills and flexibility
- Commitment to professional development and life-long learning

Some recent academic library postings

- Data/GIS Librarian
- Digital Strategist
- Digital Technologist
- Emerging Technologies Librarian
- E-resources Manager
- Immersive Learning/Gaming Librarian
- Information Literacy Librarian
- Learning Commons Manager
- Marketing/Communications/Outreach
- Professional Development Coordinator
- Repository Services Coordinator
- Scholarly Communications Librarian
- Service Quality Librarian
- Teaching and Learning Librarian
- Virtual Services Coordinator





Applying for a job: some advice

- Two parts to the written application:
 - Cover letter. Keep it brief but informative. Explain why you want the job and how you match the job requirements.
 - Resume/CV. Should be up-to-date, systematic, error free.
- Look for information about the library from its webpage, annual reports, newsletters or ask somebody working there. Pay a visit if possible.
- Interview: Be punctual, prepared, confident and sincere. Show you are keen and interested.

**GOOD LUCK WITH
YOUR JOB HUNT!**

t h i n k i ⁿ g

