

# Week 3 - Librarian Interview Worksheets

## Description

By now, you know that there are lots of different types of information professionals beyond academic librarians -- school librarians, User Experience designers, museum archivists, public librarians, and more. Within academic libraries, there are also different types of librarians -- not everyone does instruction or reference. This week, you'll interview two librarians outside of the instruction and reference department.

## Instructions

1. Conduct some background research and find/read one publication authored by your interviewee *before you conduct the interviews*. Complete the Pre-Interview Worksheet. (Note: submit one Pre-Interview Worksheet for each librarian you interview.)
2. Conduct 1 hour interviews of 2 librarians that work outside the instruction and reference department. Take notes on the Librarian Interview Worksheet questions during the interview. Submit your Librarian Interview Worksheet notes after the interviews. (Note: submit one Librarian Interview Worksheet for each librarian you interview.)
3. Meet with your supervisor to discuss your interviews.

## Due Date

The completed Pre-Interview and Librarian Interview worksheets (4 total) should be submitted by the end of Week 3. The interview debrief should also be complete by the end of Week 3.

# Pre-Interview Worksheet

There are many different types of academic librarian jobs and responsibilities. Librarians working in a college or university setting may work in instruction, reference, scholarly communications, archives, user services, collections, or more (or a combination of many!).

Prior to conducting your interviews, do some research on your interviewees' jobs and backgrounds.

1. Name and job title of interviewee
2. Use your favorite search engine to find information about your interviewees' specific job. What sorts of work do these kinds of librarians do every day? What special skills/coursework would be useful to this kind of librarian? Also note down anything interesting you found about this kind of librarianship during your research.
3. Find one publication written by your interviewee. Ideally, this should be a journal article or book chapter (ask your supervisor for help if you need it, or look for your interviewee's CV). Read the publication and answer the following questions:
  - a. Citation information:
    - i. Article/Chapter Title
    - ii. Authors
    - iii. Year of publication
    - iv. Journal/Source title
    - v. Volume/issue (if any)
    - vi. Pages (if any)
    - vii. URL
  - b. What research question did the author ask? Or, what was the problem/issue they were trying to investigate?
  - c. How did they answer that question (what were their methods)?
  - d. What did they learn (what did they conclude)?

# Librarian Interview Worksheet

1. What is a day like in this career?
2. Is this the job you thought it would be?
3. What do you enjoy about your position?
4. What are the biggest challenges you face in this position?
5. What types of skills are necessary for someone in this type of librarianship?
6. What do you most want to achieve in this role in the next 5 years?
7. As part of this assignment, I read XX article. Can you tell me about the process of writing this article? What do you like or dislike about publishing as part of your job?

Feel free to ask any additional questions regarding your specific interests.