

Librarian/chemist: the best of both worlds



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ACS Spring 2006
Atlanta

Presentation outline

- Some history - Why chemists love information
- What do we do?
- The hoop/dollar ratio
- The job: +++++/------
- What's next?

*History:
Chemists as information
producers/providers*

- Berzelius
- Beilstein
- Mellor , Fieser

A day in the life...



- Administration
- Instruction/public service
- “Collection” maintenance & enhancement
- Research and personal growth

The O/\$ ratio



- **HOOPS**

- Chemistry degree - BS, MS(!), PhD
- Library science degree - MLS, MIS
- Possible tenure issues

The 0/\$ ratio



- **DOLLARS**

- BS/MLS - \$K-K
- MS/MLS - \$K-K
- PhD/MLS - \$K-K
- Median salary in academe \$K

Job Advantages



- People, people, people
- Involvement
- Autonomy
- Variety

Job Advantages

- **People, people, people**

“The best part of the job is the interaction with patrons, especially students.”

-Carol Carr (BS Chemistry, MLS)

“I’m in a job where I can make a real difference.”

- Sarah George (BS Chemistry, MLS)

Job Advantages

- **Involvement**

“. Having a chemical background allows me to connect better with the faculty and students because I recognize the vocabulary and concepts they use” - Jeremy Garritano (BS CHE, MLS)

“I am able to cooperate both nationally and internationally with my colleagues.”

- Engelbert Zass (Chemistry Librarian, ETH Zurich)

Job Advantages



- **Autonomy**

“As an academic librarian, I can set my own agenda much more than if I were in industry.” - Sarah George (BS Chemistry, MLS)

“I can have a life.”

- Julie Hurd (PhD Physical Chemistry, MLS)

Job Advantages

- **Variety**

“Anyone in this job is always growing and learning” - Phil Barnett (PhD Biochemistry, MLS)

“This field is both fast moving and fast changing. You’re always learning and doing new things.” - Bert Zass

Job Disadvantages



- People, people, people
- Relatively low salary
- Perceived low esteem (by some)

Job Disadvantages



“Gehen Sie nicht in die Bibliothek, um etwas von anderen zu lesen, sondern gehen Sie ins Labor, damit andere etwas von Ihnen lesen.”

- An unnamed professor, quoted by Bert Zass

What's Next?



- Job outlook

“Bright and developing.” - Julie Hurd

What's Next?



- Future of the profession

“Bright and exciting.”

-Bert Zass

Contacts

- CINF Careers Committee members (or anyone else!) <<http://www.acscinf.org/new/>>
- CHMINF-L listserv
(LISTSERV@LISTSERV.INDIANA.EDU, and type “help” as the message)
- ACS Career Services