Librarian/chemist: the best of both worlds

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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 0/$ 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)
„Gehe nicht in die Bibliothek, um etwas von anderen zu lesen, sondern gehe in den 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