People Profile: Antje Mays

Editor

Follow this and additional works at: http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/atg

Part of the Library and Information Science Commons

Recommended Citation
Editor (2006) "People Profile: Antje Mays," Against the Grain: Vol. 18: Iss. 6, Article 25.
DOI: https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.4702

This document has been made available through Purdue e-Pubs, a service of the Purdue University Libraries. Please contact epubs@purdue.edu for additional information.
job preparation in practical fields such as acquisitions is generally left to
improptu learning on the job (Giles, 2002, Gorman, 2006). Skills needed
for success in acquisition librarianship include knowledge of business, account-
ing, automation, library systems, vendor relations, customer service to serve
one's clientele, often other languages, and usually management. Rather than
learning these areas in library school, librarians often learn them on the job
and at workshops, or bring them from prior paraprofessional experience or
previous career fields.

**Recruiting and Placement**

**Skilled Acquisitions Librarians: Why and where are they going?**

Acquisitions job lists abound, as evidenced by a search in Websites of
library associations and library journals, professional listservs, and the Chronicle
of Higher Education. Advertised positions often reflect increasing emphasis
on electronic materials; positions for electronic resource and serials librarians
comprise over half of listed positions examined. While electronic resources
management is often a separate position, in lean times or in small libraries these
duties are combined with the acquisitions librarian’s overall duties. Often the
work entails managing print acquisitions plus overseeing major technology and
workflow redesigns. Acquisitions positions also reflect increasingly blurring
lines between acquisitions and collection development, thus often marrying
“the mechanics of purchasing” with the intellectual tenets of collection develop-
ment and management.

What do hiring libraries look for? Stated requirements include knowledge
of several areas or functions: business practices, software suites including
spreadsheets and database programs, and library systems, in addition to
the business of acquisitions. Preferred knowledge and experience include
management, leadership (especially in large, complex, and/or multi-site
organizations), accounting, vendor relations, negotiating license agreements,
knowledge of scholarly publishing methods and trends, proficiency in other
languages, understanding of international and specialized material sources,
supervisory and organizational skills, complex problem-solving and deci-
sion-making skills, and a track record of professional development and service.

Many positions suffer from small candidate pools and reopened searches.
Newly minted librarians interested in acquisitions rarely have the desired

**continued on page 69**

---

**Antje Mays**

**Head, Monograph & AV Acquisitions, Ida Jane Dacus Library**

Winthrop University, 824 Oakland Avenue, Rock Hill, SC 29733

Phone: 001-803-323-2274 • Fax: 001-803-323-2215

<maysa@winthrop.edu>

**BORN & LIVED:** Germany; lived in Georgia and South Carolina.

**EARLY LIFE:** Travelled extensively and learned early about music (classical Bossa Nova,
and Latin jazz), art, antique books, great libraries, languages, and people from all over
the world and their cultures. I also saw a lot of the East Bloc of the Cold War. Even as
a child, it was impossible to miss the lack of basic freedoms behind the Iron Curtain.
The two things that struck me the most: people living in constant fear, and the stifling
censorship and general lack of real information. Perhaps this is why I consider access
to meaningful information such an important building block of knowledge.

**EDUCATION:** MLIS, University of South Carolina. Currently working on my MBA.

**FIRST JOB:** Exporter/translator with an import/export firm.

**PROFESSIONAL CAREER AND ACTIVITIES:** Head of Monograph and AV Acquisitions at

Winthrop University in Rock Hill SC. My favorite part includes curriculum analysis and
working with colleagues who truly care about quality collection development. Research
areas include the role of information and technology in society, education, economic
development, human rights, globalization, and national security.

**IN MY SPARE TIME I ENJOY:** Painting, drawing, photography, digital media, music,
scenic road trips, philosophical discussions with friends, volunteer work, and donating
art to raise funds for helping people in need and historic preservation.

**FAVORITE BOOKS:** My favorite author of all time is Leo Tolstoy. He had profound
insight into human nature and what motivates people, and he was a great story-teller.
Some books I’ve enjoyed more recently include The World Is Flat by Thomas Friedman,
The End Of Poverty And How We Can Make It Happen In Our Lifetime by Jeffrey Sachs,
and El misterio del capital by the Peruvian economist Hernando de Soto. My favorite
light reading is about interior design and architecture, gardening, beautiful landscapes,
and classic cars.

**PET PEEVES/WHAT MAKES ME MAD:** Incompetence, shoddy quality, lack of vision,
“we’ve always done it that way”.

**PHILOSOPHY:** Think outside the box.

**MOST MEANINGFUL CAREER ACHIEVEMENT:** Recently hosting an intern who was an
undergraduate and very excited about her goal of going on to library school. I enjoy
seeing love of books and knowledge live on. Another meaningful project was oversee-
ing a one-year grant designed to bring language teaching tools for teaching Spanish to
preschoolers in my university’s laboratory school. It generated goodwill for the library
in a roundabout way.

**GOAL I HOPE TO ACHIEVE FIVE YEARS FROM NOW:** Finish that MBA! Also, work more
closely with linking information and education with human and economic development
in the South and in tropical America.

**HOW/WHERE DO I SEE THE INDUSTRY IN FIVE YEARS:** Libraries will continue to evolve.
To avoid the perception of diminished role in the information-knowledge equation, libraries
are increasing their savvy in marketing their value to constituencies. Libraries will
continue to mix print resources with high-tech information tools. Specialized libraries
and research offices will move more toward specialized databases to save space and
maximize access to more information. The tension between print and electronic resources
will continue, and the reality of libraries’ finite budget will bring more ideas about new
electronic-access pricing models to the table. Print and electronic will be increasingly
polarized: print will continue to be the preferred medium for traditional full-length books,
“eBooks” are most likely to find niche applications for quick-look-up reference tools and
course-pack-driven texts for computer-based distance education, the sciences will prefer
the latest research online while the humanities retain more of their print roots. Multimedia
teaching tools will break into college-level markets and thus gain
more respectability for university-level contexts and viewed less as
a children’s medium. Some multimedia teaching applications are
already in place as podcast lectures with multimedia enhancements.
E-journals, aggregated databases, pricing issues, subscription and
access models, and the tension between print and electronic media
will continue to evolve.