

ACADEMIC LIBRARY OLDS COLLEGE – Michael Wareman

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My main job is to help support the Audiovisual needs of staff, students and Conference Services. Lately, that has been less with overhead projectors and slide projectors and more help with LCD projector systems. Then with my broad range of knowledge of computers and Microsoft Office software I help troubleshoot student computer problems. The job appears to be shifting away from overhead and slide projectors and more to the LCD projectors. The shift is such that I currently spend my mornings helping out in the Information Technology department troubleshooting and repairing computer problems. I also do a lot of work with the Library website and dealing with the electronic journals' and databases' access.

I did not choose so much to work in an Academic library as that was where the work was. Then over the 20 plus years my job has evolved less library/book oriented and more audiovisual/computer/library oriented. I like doing the work I do because it offers me a variety of jobs and challenges.

I think right up front you need to be a people person and you need to like helping people find information. I have found that you need to be a bit of a detective. Some people are not sure what they are looking for, and some people do not want to tell you what they are looking for. Other skills that I use a lot are Internet searching, computer troubleshooting, Microsoft Office,

For me my knowledge with computers and Microsoft Office, as well as, my knowledge using the LCD projectors has allowed me to be a lot of help to our staff and students. These skills have also let me work in the Information Technology department

I hate shelf reading! After that, I dislike shelving books. Things that I like to do are being challenged to find information. I also like a challenge of setting up audiovisual equipment for a presentation and recording the presentation. I am just learning how to then take the recorded material and turn it into a finished product. We have a new LCD/computer/video camera setup that allows for a more interactive presentation and recording of this presentation. I am currently trying to find a way to digitally record what the video camera is displaying, and allow for some of the interactive session to occur.

I am currently on the NEOS circulation committee. This also means that I have been working with the Oracle database programmer to make sure that our student records download works. Again, this is where my computer knowledge has come in handy.

I appreciate that the College and my supervisor support my professional development. I have been taking Microsoft Office classes. I should also be getting some classes that will help me with my work in IT. I also go to a conference once a year. Finally, I like reading and learning new computer skills. Some I use in the Library. Some are for my own benefit.

There will always be a need for someone to find and organize information, whether it is print or electronic. To me the biggest benefit has been my computer skills, which also happens to be where I see the biggest change in the role/skills needed by a Library Technician.