We would like to invite proposals for an upcoming ACRL publication: ***Staff to Librarian: Shifting in the Academic Library***

**Overview:**

Choosing to make a career change from library staff to professional librarian is not an easy decision to make. It is risking the familiar for the unknown. It involves leaving a position or library that you love for one where you may need to start over again. It is taking a career leap with no guarantee of where you will land. And yet, this journey can be professionally rewarding. It challenges you to learn new skills and provides opportunities to showcase your growing expertise. The most important thing to know before you decide to make this change is that you are not alone.

**Objective**:

*Staff to Librarian: Shifting in the Academic Library* will share the journeys and outcomes of people who have made this decision to provide guidance for others thinking about pursuing their library or information graduate degree. The book will be structured into three sections: showcasing the challenges and successes of making this transition; providing a view of how libraries as employers can support library staff along this path; and how library programs can be responsive to their students who have extensive library experience. For the latter two sections we want to include the voices of those who have supported staff-learners through the transition, either as employers or instructors.

We also understand that not all journeys end at the expected destination: we want to also include the voices of library staff who made the decision to pursue the master’s degree but decided to apply their learning in a different role than they originally planned or decided to remain a library staff member after completing their studies.

We are purposely looking to include submissions from authors who are from historically underrepresented or marginalized groups, identities, perspectives, experiences, and first-time writers.

**Breakdown of sections:**

**Section I: The Journey from Library Staff to Professional Librarianship**

Reflective essays from people with library staff experience who have completed or are studying towards their library or information graduate degree.

The use of a reflection model is encouraged, such as Kolb’s model of Experiential Learning: Kolb, D. (1984) *Experiential Learning: Experience as the Source of Learning and Development*. Upper Saddle River: Prentice Hall.

**Section II: Managing and Mentoring Staff on the Journey**

Library professionals who support the training and development of library staff who are in the process of obtaining their graduate degree.

**Section III: The Academic Perspective**

Critical discussion of library graduate programs for students with applicable work experience.

**Examples of voices we wish to include:**

* People who are/were full-time workers who did/are doing a library or information graduate program part-time.
* People who chose to quit their library job to do full-time school.
* Those who changed their studies while in the master’s program.
* People who graduated with a LIS but are in a non-traditional role.
* Those who decided to pursue the master’s degree and an additional education accreditation at the same time.
* Employers who have an established internal professional training program for library staff – or have an idea for one.
* Graduate studies instructors who engage with students with practical library experience.

Reflective submissions should be a maximum of 1000 words, chapters approximately 2000-5000 words. Please submit as a .docx file.

**Proposal submissions:**

Please send abstracts to acrlpub.staff2librarian@gmail.com and include the following information:

·         Name(s) and affiliated institution

·         Proposed submission title and selected section

·         250- 500-word summary of proposed submission

·         Current CV

All submissions must be unpublished original work, and not currently under review by other publications.

**Deadline:** All proposals should be submitted by **September 17, 2024.**

**Notifications:** Contributors will be notified of acceptance by December 8, 2024.

If you have any questions about the book or proposals, please contact Manda Vrkljan and Susan Bond at acrlpub.staff2librarian@gmail.com

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