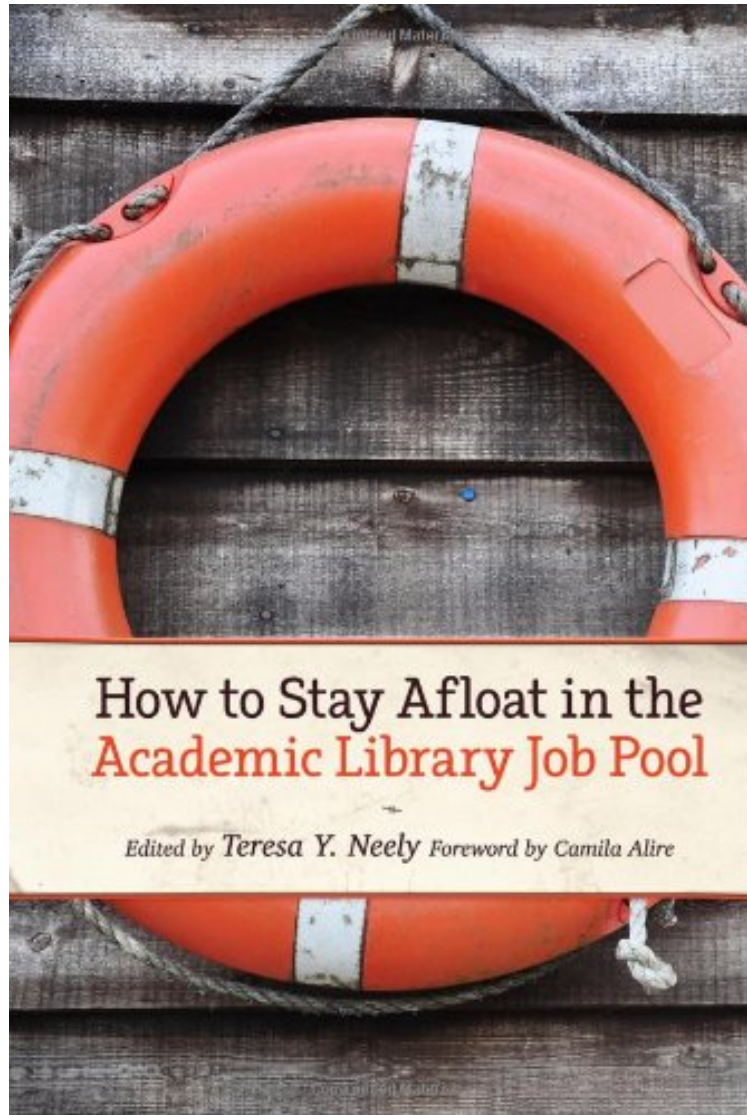


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How to Stay Afloat in the Academic Library Job Pool

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From Brand: Amer Library Assn Editions : How to Stay Afloat in the Academic Library Job Pool before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised How to Stay Afloat in the Academic Library Job Pool:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. GoodBy AzulIt has good advice. The only thing that I am confused about is that every where else I read that cover letters shouldn't be too long, but in this book it is advised to address each one of the minimum qualification of the job on the cover letter. If I was to do that, then it would be a very long cover letter!I think that maybe the author/s should publish and updated edition (since we don't mail in resumes

anymore).6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. I didn't want to like it, but...By K. ColeI really wanted to dislike this book because of its size (it's thin!) and price, but I found it fairly useful.Each chapter discusses various aspects of the academic library job search process, from reading a job ad to negotiating a job offer. The chapters are approximately ten to fifteen pages long, and at least one or two of those pages is a list of references or additional resources. Each chapter is written by a librarian at the University of New Mexico. This can be good and bad. On the positive side, each of the authors obviously is qualified to write about the job search process because they have served on one or more search committees. On the negative side, because all of the authors are from the same institution, the book relies heavily on the University of New Mexico library system for examples. I would have liked a little more diversity here.The book provides a lot of advice on what to do (or not do) as a new librarian progresses through the job search process. Some of the advice is obvious ("Proofread your cover letter.") Other tips are much more useful, such as creating a chart for each job description. More seasoned librarians or graduates who have been on a lot of interviews may find these tips very obvious.The highlights of the book are the chapters on compiling an application packet and giving a phone interview. Other chapters were lacking. Considering that the cover letter may be the most important document in the application packet, I felt this section was lacking. Examples of cover letters and CVs also would have been a welcome addition. I also was disappointed that the book did not address e-mailing vs. snail mail for application packets. Do you repeat your cover letter in the e-mail or just say "Attached are my application materials for position X"? If one chooses to snail mail an application, what type of paper should you use? Old fashioned resume paper or high quality copier paper? These and other questions remain unanswered.For \$50, I expected this to be the only book that I would need for the job search process. Far from it. Job seekers also should check out "Resume Writing And Interviewing Techniques That Work!: A How-to-do-it Manual for Librarians" by Robert Newlin.For job seekers with some extra cash, "How to Stay Afloat on the Academic Library Job Pool" might be a decent investment. If your wallet is on the emptier side, Newlin's book is the better investment, while this one is worth checking out at your local library.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Read, but don't stop here.By A. SchmulandI read this a few years back while doing some research on job-hunting guides for the library world. There's some good basic stuff here but make sure this isn't the only source you read on the topic. I can't really recommend it for individual purchase (sorry ALA) but it's easily accessible via interlibrary loan. I have three basic problems with it:1. The price: I find this terribly expensive for the length and depth of the content. Perhaps ALA's assumption was libraries would be buying it instead of individuals, but one would hope that ALA would be aware that price-gauging libraries isn't very nice, either.2. The lack of diversity and experience in the authors: all from one institution and some with what I'd consider relatively limited experience as recruiters. Yes, even one time on a search committee can be very enlightening, but given the size of the librarian population in the US, I'd have wished that they could have put together a co-author list that consisted of individuals who have served on or chaired many--if not dozens of--search committees (they exist! I've met them) and from many academic institutions. Some point/counterpoint from different sized university libraries, public vs private, geographically dispersed, etc, would have been very welcome. Some of the processes described in this volume were not reflective of hiring practices broadly.3. What I can only call the mean-spirited nature of some of the chapter titles. I know the authors were trying to be funny and lighten up the topic a little, but for me it just went too far. Job-seeking is soul-sucking enough without having employed people mocking applicants. The chapter titles on 4, 6, and 8 just made me shudder, especially 4: "Compiling an Application Packet That Doesn't Make the Search Committee Want to Kill You." [I've served on a lot of academic library search committees. I've been frustrated, confused, amused, bemused, and felt like applicants were wasting my time, but I have to say that anybody who feels anything heading toward anger when reviewing apps should probably mellow out a little. Or recalibrate their process so those applications are removed in the initial screening step and no more effort than necessary is spent on them.]To sum up: it contains useful content, no doubt. It definitely has an edge over more generic job hunting manuals that don't address the specifics of the library job market and expectations of the library job market. But please don't assume it's the last word on search processes or hiring preferences across the library world.

There's never been a more challenging time to find a position as an academic librarian, especially for those who have recently completed their library education. But whether job-hunters are jumping into the job pool for the very first time, or back in the water after a dry spell, Neely and her crack team of expert contributors have the information needed to stay afloat. Their collective wisdom will act as a lifesaver, providing practical and specific advice on how the job-search process works, including the how-tos of reading between the lines of a job listing and assembling a compelling application packet. Keys to understanding the mysterious ways of search committees, and what criteria may be used to determine successful candidates. The nuts and bolts of undergoing a successful job interview, plus tips for negotiating when an offer is made. Job-hunters at every level of experience will find this volume the definitive resource for moving successfully into an academic career.

About the Author Teresa Y. Neely is director of access services, University Libraries, University of New Mexico. Most recently she was head of reference at the Albin O. Kuhn Library Gallery, University of Maryland, Baltimore County;

and an adjunct professor at the College of Information Studies, University of Maryland, College Park. She received her MLS and PhD degrees (LIS) from the School of Information Sciences, University of Pittsburgh.