

Research Libraries Need More Than Librarians

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OMS SPEC Kit #212, *Non-Librarian Professionals* examines professional personnel in ARL libraries who have not attained the M.L.S. degree. To take full advantage of the opportunities presented by emerging technologies, libraries need an infusion of diversified talent and a greater breadth of perspective than what the traditionally trained and oriented librarian brings. Libraries increasingly need professionals who possess additional, advanced educational qualifications or specialized training in order to function effectively and efficiently. The systems office is the major area in which other training or education is accepted in lieu of the M.L.S. degree; further study on the educational backgrounds of systems staff will be undertaken in the form of a separate SPEC Kit later this year.

M.L.S. degreed professionals do not face undue competition however, as there remains a wide gap between an expressed willingness to consider such individuals and actually making these appointments in any significant numbers. What is important is not that libraries need other professionals, but rather how these positions are defined, their incumbents recruited and hired, and then once hired, how these professionals are oriented to the nature of their responsibilities in a research library.

SPEC Kit #212 was compiled by [John Zenelis](#) and [Jean Dorrian](#) of [Temple University Libraries](#). It is available for \$40 (\$20 ARL members) from [ARL Publications](#), Department #0692, Washington, DC 20073-0692, (202) 296-2296.

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