Professional Development:
3 Tips for Success as a Solo Librarian

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About the ACC Library & Archives

• 1943 ACC Founded
1950’s Library Program established

• 20 FTE staff
7 Departments
Library: 1.25 staff + 15 Volunteers

• 25,000 volumes / 150 periodical subscriptions / 3,500 artist files / 1,000 linear feet of archives

• Library budget < $30k (excluding staff + rent)

• Director of Education supervises librarian + helps create budget

• Open to public,
  Mon – Fri, 10am to 5pm
Tip #1: Budget

NEGOTIATE, APPLY, + GO ONLINE

- Build professional development into hiring package; make it part of annual performance review + budget process
- Apply for travel grants and presentation opportunities with scholarships + honorariums
- Consider community education
- Take advantage of webinars, Lynda.com, and (of course!) the ARLIS Learning Portal
Tip #2: The Silo

SHARE + COLLABORATE

- Get involved with local professional chapters; host a meeting or tour
- Find a mentor with solo experience
- Present about your work within the organization
- Embrace the opportunity to collaborate with colleagues from other departments
Tip #3: Workload + Staffing

CONSIGN + DECLINE

• Make professional development part of your job, not an added benefit

• Dedicate a small amount of time - 30 minutes a day - to connect via blogs, listervs, journals, etc.

• Put trust in and train volunteers and colleagues; offer to job trade when coverage is needed

• Don’t be afraid to say no when asked to serve in a professional capacity
Thank you!

Image Credits:
Image 1: ACC Library, ca. 1960
Image 2: Ceramist Toshiko Takaezu speaks with an artist vendor at the ACC NE Regional Craft Fair, 1966
Image 3: Harvey Littleton and Erwin Eisch demonstrate glass blowing at the First World Congress of Craftsmen, 1964
Image 4: Students in a pottery class at the Craft Students League in New York City
Image 5: ACC Library, ca. 2016
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