what librarians do

so many kinds of libraries: academic, public, school, special, government, military, prison, corporate, law, medical, museum

CHANGE
Oh well, it’s all in flux

organize

Cataloging
Create online catalogs.
Describe material with metadata that will enable easy discovery

Electronic Resources
Maintain access to licensed materials
Develop systems to organize & present digital collections

Data management
Collect, describe, & manage data

facilitate

Reference
Answer user questions in person & by phone, email, chat, text message, & social media

Instruction
Teach effective & ethical discovery & use of information

Outreach
Develop programs & exhibits that highlight library collections


collect

Collection Development
Evaluate:
- user needs
- collection weaknesses
Select:
- appropriate material
Deselect:
- unneeded material
Manage budgets
allocate funds

Acquisitions
Order & receive
Pay invoices
Subscribe
License
Gifts & donations

Preservation
Conserve, repair, & maintain physical & digital collections


CURATION
it’s museum talk
a little bit of all

MANAGEMENT
- lead & supervise
- personnel
- planning
- budget

books
databases
music
journals
ebooks
magazines
media

what?

INFORMATION
OK, some would say data or knowledge.

what librarians do

Professional ethics: 1. Equality: everyone has legitimate information needs. 2. Freedom: access to all kinds of information is important. 3. Privacy: the information you use is no one’s business but your own.

Famous Librarians depicted top to bottom, left to right: Ruth Brown, Melvil Dewey, John Cotton Dana

Credit: Steven R. Harris, srharris19@gmail.com