Rev up Your Résumé: Determining Factors in the Race for an Academic Library Position

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Recommended Citation
Rosener, Ashley; Scripps-Hoekstra, Lindy; and Eckard, Max, "Rev up Your Résumé: Determining Factors in the Race for an Academic Library Position" (2013). *Presentations*. 44.
[http://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/library_presentations/44](http://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/library_presentations/44)
REV UP YOUR RÉSUMÉ: DETERMINING FACTORS IN THE RACE FOR AN ACADEMIC LIBRARY POSITION
Ashley Rosener, Lindy Scripps-Hoekstra, and Max Eckard

WHAT WE LEARNED
1. EXPERIENCE COUNTS
   The majority of survey respondents advised LIS students get practical library experience while in school.

2. EARLIER IS BETTER
   Graduates who found jobs right out of library school had starting applying at least four months before graduation.

3. INVOLVEMENT IS KEY
   Graduates who found jobs right out of library school participated in conferences, associations and workshops.

BACKGROUND
Recent LIS graduates face many challenges finding an academic library job.
• Lack of entry level positions
• Competition with experienced candidates
• High applicant numbers due to consistent LIS enrollment and graduation
• De-professionalization of library staff

This study set out to determine which factors might be most influential in the job seeking process by examining the library school experiences of recent graduates who obtained academic library positions.

RESULTS
Of the 85 survey respondents who found academic library jobs...

Survey Respondent Advice
“Start looking at job ads early. Figure out what you’re passionate about. Experiment and take risks with your library school projects.”

“How many months prior to graduation did you start applying for jobs?

- >7 Months
- 4-6 Months
- 2-3 Mo.

- How many jobs did you apply for?
- 1-5
- 6-10
- 11-25
- 26-50

- How long did it take after graduation to find a job?
- 1-3 Months
- 4-6 Months

- Was your search limited to a specific geographic location?
- No

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