

Are You Ready to Roll?: Expected Technology Competencies and the Library Worker



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Academic Library Association of Ohio Annual Conference – October 30, 2009

Great Expectations

- ⊙ How can we learn what others see as key technology skills?
- ⊙ How can we assess our own skills?
- ⊙ How can we grow our skills?
- ⊙ How can we stay aware of technology trends?

Survey Results

Most common technologies and skills:

1. E-mail (97.9%)
2. Word processing (96.2%)
3. Web searching (94.1%)
4. Searching library databases (92.7%)
5. Using an integrated library system (86.3%)
6. Web navigation (80.7%)
7. Teaching others to use technology (79.1%)
8. Spreadsheets (78.3%)
9. File management/operating system navigation (62.3%)
10. Troubleshooting technology (61.9%)

Bottom five technologies and skills

- Computer programming (8.5%)
- Other (wikis, cataloging, course management) (9.8%)
- Network management (10.9%)
- Assistive/adaptive technology (18.1%)
- Graphic design (21.3%)

What can we learn from these results?

- Introspection: what about me, my skills, my library?
- Assess your learning needs
- Pursue continuing education
- Share what you know
- Stay aware of technology trends

Competency Sets

- Ⓞ WebJunction “Competency Index for the Library Field” - www.webjunction.org/competencies
- Ⓞ Library Support Staff Certification Program - www.ala-apa.org/lsscpl/ (see Competency Sets)
- Ⓞ Ohio Library Council Core Competencies - www.olc.org/CoreCompetencies.asp
- Ⓞ Technology Competencies for Libraries in North Carolina - statelibrary.ncdcr.gov/ce/images/Competencies.pdf

Technology Awareness Tools

My top sources:

1. Chapter 2 of my book - [Neal-Schuman Library Technology Companion](#) (2009)
2. WebJunction – www.webjunction.org or oh.webjunction.org (for Ohio)
3. Cites & Insights – citesandinsights.info
4. LITA Top Tech Trends – litablog.org/category/top-technology-trends/
5. Seven Things You Should Know About – educause.edu/7ThingsYouShouldKnowAboutSeries/7495
6. Glengage – glengage.com
7. Library Success – www.libsuccess.org
8. Web4Lib – lists.webjunction.org/web4lib

A Personal Strategy

- Have a list of what you’d like to learn
- Pursue professional development
- Build a network of people who know more
- Read a good book or some good blogs or tweets
- Teach others what you already know

Presentation and Handout

www.users.muohio.edu/burkejj/alao2009/

Questions?

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