

(Download ebook) The Accidental Librarian

## The Accidental Librarian

*Pamela H. Mackellar*

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"Impressive! A wealth of information is contained in this overview of the profession."

—Susan Pinkerton, PhD, Associate Professor of  
Library Science, New Mexico State University

# The Accidental Librarian



Pamela H. MacKellar  
Foreword by Karen Strege

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**Pamela H. Mackellar : The Accidental Librarian** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Accidental Librarian:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Mostly for public librarians and people with low self esteemBy Keith J. KelleyIn the confines of my own personal writings, I raged against this book and its message, which seemed to be: if you are working as a librarian, you are good enough, you'll just never be as good as a librarian with an MLS. I blame this book for much of the caste system which appears to be alive in the dark corners of the library industry. This message flies in the face of the experience of most who have ever gone to school and then worked in their chosen

profession (including librarians): that you learn more on the job in the first 6 months than you did in school. I'm not saying the book is totally useless, I'm sure for the rural public librarians it seems to be aimed at it is quite useful, and it even has some good information for the rest of us. However, it is so casually offensive at times I found it hard to get through much of the book without throwing it across the room. You might be tempted to think this is the book that you should start with in this whole series, but I think you'll find one of the more specific titles more helpful and perhaps less frustrating. I can personally suggest *The Accidental Library Manager* and *The Accidental Systems Librarian*.<sup>2</sup> of 2 people found the following review helpful. Accidental, perhaps, but definitely beneficial for the library student  
By Bookclass  
Perhaps the book is about those who have come into the job of Librarian through the immersion method, but it is also a great book for new library students and people who might consider librarianship. The author gives a good overview of things to think about as a librarian. She gives examples of people who suddenly found themselves thrust into the role, and she gives examples of resources and things that must be considered if one wishes to succeed on the job. It's a very good first book for a new library student to read, and it is an excellent book for those getting on the job training. It is not the only book one will need, since this is just an overview, but it is a great start. I really liked it.<sup>8</sup> of 8 people found the following review helpful. For any librarian doing the job without benefit of a formal degree  
By Midwest Book Review  
Not every staff librarian set out to become a librarian or has the advantage of specific library training. Many a librarian must figure out how to stay abreast of the rapid technological advances in the realm of library science. Then there all the volunteers who find themselves (often because of community library budget cuts in these hard economic times) having to perform duties once reserved for professionally trained library staff members. That's why Pamela MacKellar's "*The Accidental Librarian*" is such a valuably informed and informative instructional guide and introduction to library principles, practices, and tools. Replete throughout with illustrative examples, practical tips, and useful exercises, "*The Accidental Librarian*" is an invaluable and highly recommended read for any library professional or volunteer seeking to improve their ability to serve their patrons.

Are you doing the job of a librarian without the advantage of a library degree or professional experience? Do you wonder what you might have missed in formal library education, how highly trained librarians stay on top of their game, or what skills and qualities library directors look for? Have we got the book for you! Pamela H. McKellar a 25-year library veteran who has mentored accidental librarians in all types of settings covers library principles, practices, and tools of the trade. She offers tips, examples, and simple exercises to increase your understanding. Whether you are seeking a thorough grounding in library fundamentals or simply looking for ways to serve more effectively in your current role, *The Accidental Librarian* is a great place to start.