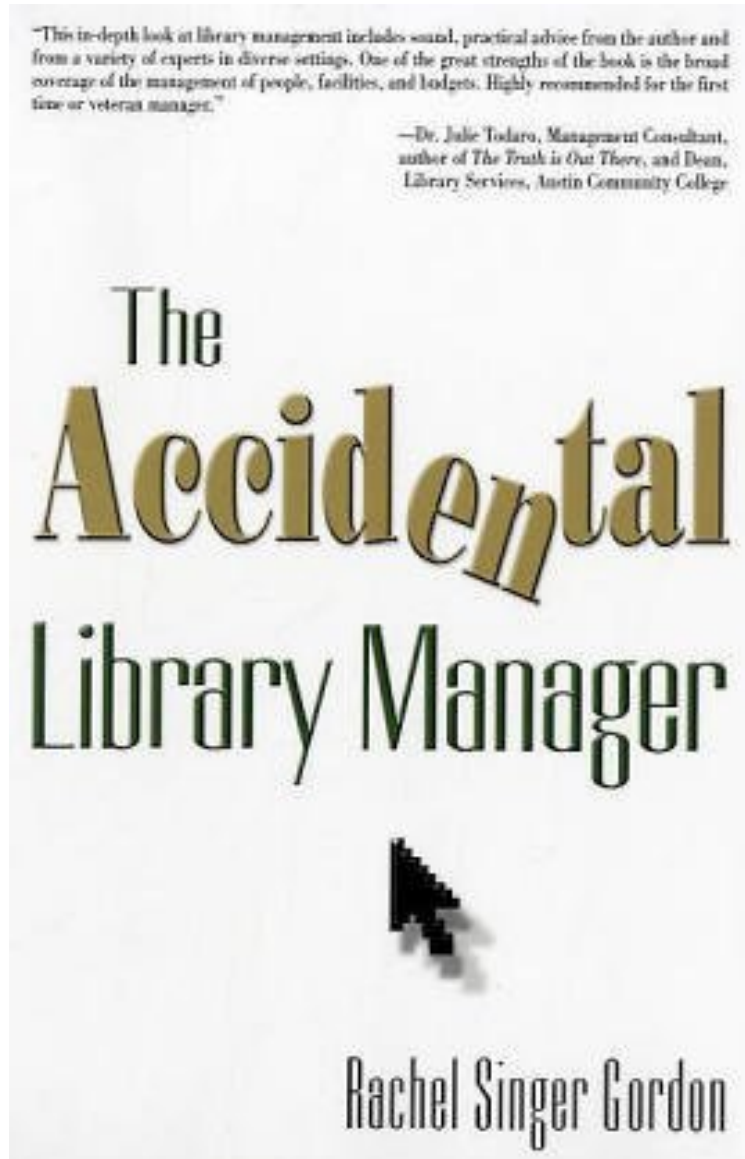


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The Accidental Library Manager

Rachel Singer Gordon

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Rachel Singer Gordon : The Accidental Library Manager before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Accidental Library Manager:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good for systems librarians/managers/directors and other library IT workersBy Keith J. KelleyThis book is good for anyone in a management role in a library, not just managers of a library (I found the title a little ambiguous initially). Particularly, I found this book a broad, but quite useful reference

when writing my own more narrowly focused book on managing library systems (The Myth and Magic of Library Systems). IT workers these days are leaders and managers in their libraries, managing people, projects, budgets, and change within a library. This book should definitely be one of the ones in their personal collection. If you come from an IT background rather than a library background, there may be a few sections where you have to substitute the term "IT professional" for the term "librarian" or the word "committee" in place of the word "board". With that shift in perspective in mind, nearly everything in this book is relevant to the library IT professional.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Helpful but not groundbreaking
By G_W1ZI saw the author speak at PaLa. The book was good although hackneyed at points. It was a helpful book as I just started as a director of a library after having zero managerial experience.

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. An Excellent Introductory Book
By Jeffrey T. Munson
The Accidental Library Manager contains a wealth of information for the prospective library manager. Written in an introductory style and borrowing quotes and ideas from many top professionals in the library field, this book is the perfect introduction to the field of library management. This book was used as the text for a Master's degree course in library science which I recently completed, and I'm very glad the instructor made this book his choice. It is written at an introductory level, so much of the technical jargon is left out. Instead, the author relies on information from other professionals in the field to help make her arguments. She does this very well throughout the book. Having several different angles on the same subject definitely helps one to see all of the sides. The book contains information on each aspect that a successful library manager needs to know. Included are writings on managing people, what library staff want, managing facilities and technology, managing change, managing money, and philosophical, legal, and ethical issues. Each of these areas is vital to the overall success of the library, and this book describes each area so that the prospective manager can become successful in all of them.

I highly recommend this great book. Many books I've read dealing with library science have been dry and very technical, but this book offers a refreshing change of pace. It is fun to read and it is loaded with valuable information which will help the new manager become successful in their career. This book should be required reading for library managers. By following some of the practices outlined in this book, the new manager will succeed in directing the library to its fullest potential.

Most librarians enter the field intending to focus on a particular specialty, but eventually need to take on certain supervisory or managerial responsibilities in order to move forward. In *The Accidental Library Manager*, author Rachel Singer Gordon provides support and background for new managers, aspiring managers, and those who find themselves in unexpected management roles. Gordon fills in the gaps left by brief and overly theoretical library school coursework, showing library managers how to be more effective in their positions and how to think about their work in terms of the goals of their larger institutions. Included are insights from working library managers at different levels and in various types of libraries, addressing a wide range of management issues and situations. Not to be missed: comments from library staff about the qualities they appreciate and the styles and attitudes they find counterproductive in their own bosses. This readable and reassuring guide is a must for any librarian who wishes to succeed in a management position.