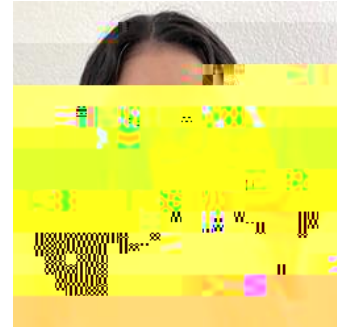




Why the Term “Librarian” is Problematic

We have all heard and accepted numerous reasons why the terms “library” and “librarian” should not be used. Some of the popular reasons include:

- Using the “librarian” title holds us back from being recognized for our full set of abilities.
- Calling our resources a “library” confuses users on what’s available.
- There are other better-known job titles that cover our responsibilities, such as Digital Assets Management Specialist or Reference Supervisor.
- Librarians have poor cultural images (It’s a Wonderful Life, thanks for that).



Although I aspire to management, and have assisted in occasional interviews, I have not yet held a paid managerial role. However, I have significant and recent experience as an early career librarian trying to find work. As a representative of the early career population, I think that removing the “librarian” title from job openings makes job hunting so much more frustrating and difficult than it should be.

Maybe I chose the wrong courses in school, but when I finished my MLIS I had no idea that law firms hired librarians. When I searched for work, I looked for openings with the employers I already knew (Santa Clara County and various community colleges) and searched for jobs labeled “librarian.” Nearly a year after graduation, I finally found a full-time position at my first law firm when they posted an opening for “Librarian.” Thank God they did! If they had not been clear, I would not have known my education had qualified me for this fantastic line of work!

A few years later, after I was very happily situated at another firm, I still continuously searched job openings and the [AALL Salary Survey](#) —u avRn Sa L