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Perquimans County

Perquimans County Employee Interview  
Perquimans County Library Technician

When asked to interview a county employee, I decided to interview someone that worked at the library here in Perquimans County. I chose this employee because I like working with youth. The person that I interviewed was Mrs. Earline Cross and she is a Library Technician here in Perquimans County. She was very willing to answer any questions that I had. I chose to ask her a series of questions that related to her job duties and responsibilities as well as the challenges of working at the library.

First of all Mrs. Cross chose the profession that she is in because she loves to read and loves libraries. In order for her to acquire her position she had to receive a 4-year degree from a college. Personality traits that she recommends for someone that may want to go into this profession is for them to be friendly, organized, helpful, resourceful, and independent. In addition there is also the use of technology in her profession so she recommended having research and computer skills in order to help the public with needs or questions that they may have.

Next, I asked Mrs. Cross questions that pertained to her everyday duties at the library. Typically, Mrs. Cross works 35 hours a week. In addition, she mentioned that nights during the school year are busy as well as summer time because of the reading programs that they offer during the summer. The purpose of the reading programs is to help keep kids interested in reading and learning during

summer break. A typical day at the library involves a variety of things that include answering questions for people, keeping the library cleaned and organized, answering the phone, planning and presenting programs, and promoting reading throughout the year. Mrs. Cross included in our interview that her favorite part about her job is working with the people in the community.

Finally, we touched on a few more questions about pros and cons of the job. She answered with the pros of her job being that she is helping people on a daily basis. However, one con that she mentioned was that sometimes it can feel like a babysitting service when parents drop their kids off at the library and they are handling behavior and other things with kids. She said the biggest challenge with this job is trying to keep teens interested and involved with reading, especially boys. On the other side though one of the biggest successes at the library recently has been their summer reading program where the interest continues to grow each year.

In conclusion, I really enjoyed learning more about working at the county library and I hope this will help inform other people about the position as well.

**This interview was completed by Mrs. Earline Cross**

1. What is your occupation and job title?  
**Library Technician**
2. How did you become interested in this type of work?  
**I love libraries**
3. What type of education is required for this job?  
**4-year degree**
4. What personality traits work best for this occupation?  
**Friendly, organized, helpful, resourceful, independent**
5. What kind of technical knowledge is required/  
**Computer skills, research skills**
6. How many hours do you work in a typical week?  
**35 hours**
7. Are certain times of the month busier than others?  
**Not really; nights are busy during the school year; summer is always busy**
8. What kinds of things are you required to do as part of your job?  
**Help people find answers to their questions, help people with computer issues, find books of interest, plan and present programs to promote reading**
9. What do you like best about your job?  
**The people**
10. What are your duties and responsibilities?  
**Greet, assist people with requests; manage memorial fund monies; keep library clean, organized and in good order**
11. What is typical day life for you?  
**Check items in and out; shelve, reshelve items; help with online applications; find books similar to ones patron likes, keep computers up and running; send faxes for people; and answer the phone**
12. What do you see as the pros and cons of the type of work?  
**Pro – helping people  
Con – babysitting service**
13. What advice would you give a student interested in this career?  
**Go for it. Be a self-motivator. Make everyone smile so they will come back to the library. When library gets quiet find something to do to help improve library services, especially for people who do not normally come to the library**
14. What are your biggest challenges with this job?  
**Trying to keep teens interested and involved with reading, especially boys**
15. What has been your biggest success with this job?  
**Summer Reading Program was successful this year with more teens than last year**