

So you want to be a subject librarian?

Chloe Starling - Subject Liaison Librarian at Middlesex University
Twitter: @chloeestarling

Applying for your first librarian role can be challenging and frustrating.



So here are five tips to help get you started!

1. Explore your personal development.

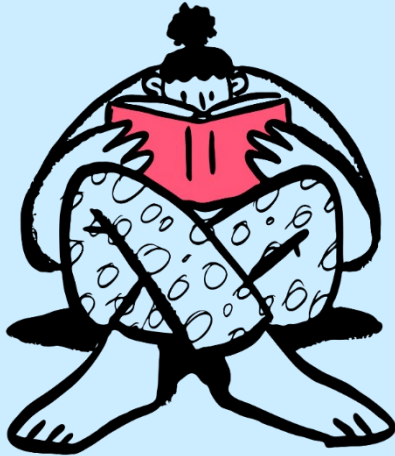
Librarian roles require a certified qualification or commitment to personal development.

There many paths you can consider...

- Take an [Accredited Qualification.](#)
- Apply for [CILIP Certification.](#)
- Explore a [Library Apprenticeship.](#)
- Attend personal development workshops.



2. Think about your transferable skills.



What skills do you have relevant to a librarian role?

- What skills do you use in your job?
- Any projects you helped with at work?
- Use your developed skills to fill something you haven't got experience in (e.g. skills needed for managerial work).

3. Look for opportunities to develop your skills.

There are many places you can develop your skills...

- Volunteer for opportunities at work,
- Shadow employees,
- Any opportunities you can do outside work?



4. Maintain a good work-life balance.



When applying for roles, make sure you're looking after yourself.....

- Reflect on your work,
- Remember self-care,
- Work on your hobbies and interests.

5. Don't be afraid to ask for help!

There are many places to ask for help...

- Ask colleagues at work,
- Network at events,
- Ask on social media!



Useful Links!

- CPD25 Events: <https://www.m25lib.ac.uk/cpd25/>
- Early career Academic & Research Librarians in London: <https://www.earll.co.uk/>
- Network for New and Aspiring Library Professionals: <https://nlpn.wordpress.com/>
- FLIP Network: <https://flipnetworkuk.wordpress.com/>

