

CASE STUDY FOR CHAPTER 2

Newley County Public Library

Molly Bekins is a newly hired librarian in the Newley County Public Library System. Newley County is in a major metropolitan area, and the system has thirteen branch libraries. Molly is assigned to the Melba Branch Library, one of the four main branch libraries. She reports to the branch librarian and is the second of two professionals assigned to this branch library. In this position, her responsibilities include general reference and managing the children's and young adult collections along with service programs directed toward children and teens. The Newley County Public Library System has two bibliographers, or collections librarians, responsible for systemwide selection, located in the main library. One, Max, is responsible for adult collections, and the other, Ralph, is responsible for children's and young adult collections. The Newley County Public Library System uses a combination of an approval plan and firm orders to acquire new books. Although Max and Ralph make decisions about new titles to be acquired for the system, they rely on the staff members in the branch libraries to manage the branch collections and to make decisions about added copies and replacements and to provide information about special interests and foci in each

branch collection. The two systemwide collections librarians accept purchase recommendations from all their colleagues. Molly reports to her branch head and also, for collections responsibilities, to the children's and young adult collections "central" collection development librarian, who has input to her annual evaluations. The Newley County Public Library System has no formal training program for new librarians, though it provides informal training in basic procedures in submitting new purchase orders.

Activity

Prepare a list of the competencies that Molly should have gained in her graduate library and information science program that prepare her for this position. Develop a twelve-month schedule for Molly that lays out what she needs to learn about the collections, operations, services, and users in the Melba Branch Library and the Newley County Public Library System and the sequence and time frame in which she should master this knowledge. Prepare a list of contacts Molly should make in the library system and in the region as part of her training program.