

5B—TRICKY TRAJECTORIES - CAREERS IN ACADEMIC LIBRARIANSHIP #2

Leadership Development for Academic Librarians: Maintaining the Status Quo?

Samantha Schmel-Hines (Peninsula College)

Leadership development experiences within librarianship are immensely popular. However, informal critiques leveled at library leadership training opportunities claim that these opportunities only reinforce the status quo and that there is no real desire to address issues affecting our profession, particularly in terms of diversity. In order to critically determine the value of these professional opportunities, we must ask: what does library leadership training accomplish? Could library leadership training be done better, and if so, how? Data from library leadership training opportunities in the United States and Canada were gathered to address these questions. In addition, a survey was conducted of librarians about who attends these offerings, why, and whether the stated outcomes both met their needs and were addressed effectively. This is followed by an analysis of recent literature regarding diversity, gender, and leadership within the library profession, which leads to some suggestions for library leadership development professional opportunities.