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For Keli Likins, being the senior librarian of the teen department at the Jacksonville Public Library in Jacksonville, Florida has been a life-long goal. Starting when she was young, Keli's love of books has led her down this path. Keli got her undergraduate degree in English at Washburn University, and then went on to get her Masters of Library Science in Florida six years later. While working as a paraprofessional in two different libraries during her break in studies, Keli accepted a position as Reference Librarian at the Jacksonville Public Library, after graduating with her Master's degree. Keli worked in that position for two years before being promoted to the Senior Librarian position which she currently holds.

Because Keli is the Senior Librarian, she has a diverse range of duties for a typical day. Keli loves to help patrons during the time she spends on the reference desk, which can be anywhere from two to three hours per day. Doing research and meeting new people are some of the favorite parts of Keli's job because she feels she can meet the varying needs of the patrons, as well as find the information they require.

Keli is also in charge of the program planning for 12-18 year old patrons. She says planning fun activities like "Battle of the Bands", pizza parties, and Playstation contests are instrumental in keeping this age group aware of the library and what it can offer them. It is very fulfilling for Keli to see the teenagers having fun while using the resources available in the library.

Keli is in charge of scheduling other librarians for reference desk time, which is another part of her work. Doing supervisory duties like this is something Keli has had to get accustomed to, because she is still pretty new to her current position. Keli does enjoy working with the other librarians in weekly meetings to see how they can improve relations with the surrounding community, and reach more people who do not know what services the library has to offer them.

Keli belongs to several different organizations through the Jacksonville Public Library. The main organization is American Libraries Association (ALA). Keli is very active in this group and has even had the Teen Department of her library featured in the magazine “American Libraries”. Keli is also involved with Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA), which allows her to interact with other Teen Department librarians, creating a network of knowledge and ideas for different aspects involving her position. Another group Keli is involved with is Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT), which is part of ALA. This group establishes precedence for human and social needs within the library profession.

Keli believes belonging to these groups assists her in performing her duties better. These groups allow her to learn about the newest technology, keep in touch with other libraries and librarians, receive new knowledge of how to interact with young adults, and help solve social problems sometimes found with the different classes of patrons. If Keli did not belong to these groups, interaction with the young adults would be limited because the groups help produce ideas necessary for her role in the Teen Department.

Keli enjoys being a librarian in the Teen Department because she wants to help young adults find the information they need, and decipher the good information from the bad information they might find on the internet. Keli is excited to be part of the newest technology additions to the library and feels librarians are needed more than ever with the advancement of this technology. Keli looks forward to seeing interest in libraries continue to grow as technology moves forward.