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How to Thrive as a Solo Librarian

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From Scarecrow Press : How to Thrive as a Solo Librarian before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised How to Thrive as a Solo Librarian:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Kindle version has no table of contentsBy P. DuffelWhile the book is very good, and I will agree with other reviewers about quality of the content. I would like to mention that the Kindle version does not have a table of contents. In a book that was not intended to be read from cover to cover, this is a serious omission.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Another quality practical guide for librariansBy kjCarol Smallwood has edited a series of valuable practical books on many aspects of library management and

librarianship. *How to Thrive as a Solo Librarian* seems to be another welcome addition to this line of guides for librarians. (Full disclosure: I have contributed chapters to other books edited by Carol Smallwood.) The chapters in this book help a professional overcome the challenges of managing day-to-day library work as well as major projects while at the same time seeking opportunities to justify funding through public relations and effective fiscal management. This useful book helps to fill in professional knowledge and skills gaps by offering planning advice and methods from experienced librarians. I am impressed with the topic selection by Ms. Smallwood and her co-editor as well as with the expertise of the contributors. One observation that struck me while reviewing these chapters is that the advice offered suits not only solo librarians but also librarians managing departments (both small and large) within large library organizations. Definitely a recommended title. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. It's all here.... By Suzann Carol Smallwood has edited another stellar anthology; this time providing much-needed guidance to solo librarians. With public library budgets at an all-time low, solo librarians may be on the rise. Through this anthology, the basics of library administration are adapted to the solo situation. Standout contributions include "Solo Librarians as Jugglers" by Roxanne Myers Spencer and "Security Tips for the Solo Librarian" by Jonathan Frater.

How to Thrive as a Solo Librarian is a compilation of chapters by librarians offering advice to colleagues who must work alone or with very limited help. The contributors come from schools and colleges, special and corporate archives, public libraries, and seasoned L.I.S. faculty across the United States and abroad who are familiar with the vigor, dedication, and creativity necessary for solo librarians.

With firsthand knowledge of the trials and tribulations of working as a lone librarian, this reviewer appreciates this helpful primer aimed at those flying solo and seeking means to survive and thrive. Smallwood and Clapp have gathered information on a wide range of topics that are enlightening for solo librarians of all types. Each of the 26 chapters in *How to Thrive as a Solo Librarian* is written in straightforward prose by experienced library practitioners, and each is approximately 10 pages in length. Among the main subjects that warrant multiple chapters are marketing, community involvement, and professional development. Numerous thoughtful tips abound for the solo librarian in this specialized volume. A useful resource for those practicing or considering careers as solo librarians. (Booklist) Smallwood (editor, *Librarians as Community Partners*), a veteran of public library administration, here oversees another practical book for librarians in the field. With Clapp (Humanities Social Sciences Lib. West, Univ. of Florida), she presents a collection of pieces by various practitioners who must do it all. The contributed chapters cover time management, community involvement, public relations and marketing, professional development, administrative tasks, and assessing and weeding collections. The work is at times informative and practical... VERDICT Intended primarily for special librarians, who often function alone, and very small public libraries. (Library Journal) The audience for this book librarians who are working alone, or nearly alone may be larger than many of us suspect. And once again Carol Smallwood has done what she does so well present a guide, written by a variety of experienced professionals, full of common sense, nuts and bolts advice, and step-by-step instruction. (Tom Cooper, Director, Webster Groves Public Library, Webster, Writing and Publishing: the Librarian's Handbook, (ALA, 2010)) Pragmatic and to the point, the articles contained in *How to Thrive as a Solo Librarian* are useful for librarians working at libraries of all types and sizes. The book is also a great starting point for those librarians about to embark on major tasks which lie outside of their comfort zone. (Wayne Finley, Assistant Professor and Business Librarian, Northern Illinois University Libraries) A wealth of solid, practical advice, this anthology provides essential how-to articles that speak directly to the needs of those solo librarians who do it all. (Kim Becnel, assistant professor of library science, Appalachian State University) Time and money are often in very short supply for the one person library. This book will give the solo librarian what is most needed timely, practical advice presented in a concise and readable manner. (James B. Casey, Director, Oak Lawn Public Library; recipient of the Illinois Library Association Librarian of the Year Award) You're not alone anymore! *How to Thrive as a Solo Librarian*, written by your fellow solo colleagues, is here to guide and help you. It covers the many facets of solo librarianship including collection development, moving your library, time management, PR marketing, administrative tasks, as well as the much-needed advice on professional development. You are one amongst many; learn from your experienced friends. (Dorothea J. Coiffe, assistant professor, A. Philip Randolph Memorial Library) In these tough economic times, where so many librarians find themselves wearing several different hats and taking on additional responsibilities, *How to Thrive as a Solo Librarian* not only offers helpful advice for the solo librarian, but useful ideas for those of us with reduced library staffs and budgets. (Larissa K. Garcia, assistance professor, National-Louis University Library) *How to Thrive as a Solo Librarian* presents the distilled knowledge of practicing solo librarians in an accessible, helpful way. It will be invaluable on the front lines. (John Helling, director, Bloomfield-Eastern Greene County Public Library) This book contains a wealth of practical information and tips on how to manage a one-person library. They cover topics such as prioritization and planning, managing time and workloads, using technology, networking and learning, using volunteers, and marketing. This book is recommended for all types of libraries and library schools (American Reference Books Annual) Together the editors have found a wealth of knowledge within their contributors, using it to

create a practical toolkit that helps professionals overcome the challenges of managing day-to-day library work as well as major projects, while at the same time seeking opportunities to justify funding through public relations and effective fiscal management. While recommended for solo practitioners or those considering careers as solo librarians, the advice in this work suits not only solo librarians but also librarians managing departments (both small and large) within large library organizations. This book is also a great starting point for those librarians about to embark on tasks that may lie outside their comfort zone and is an excellent toolkit for students of librarianship. (Australian Library Journal)

About the Author Carol Smallwood has worked as a public library systems administrator and consultant, and in school, academic, and special libraries. She has authored, co-authored, edited, and co-edited several books, including *Writing and Publishing: The Librarian's Handbook* (2010) and *Librarians as Community Partners: An Outreach Handbook* (2010). Her articles have appeared in numerous journals, including *American Libraries*. Melissa J. Clapp is the Coordinator of Instruction Outreach at Humanities Social Sciences Library West, University of Florida. Her most recent publication appears in *Collaborative Librarianship*.