

THE MILLENNIALS: ASSESSING THE NEXT GENERATION OF ACADEMIC
LIBRARIANS

Jennifer Emanuel

Dr. Sandy Hutchinson, Dissertation Supervisor

ABSTRACT

Academic librarianship is a career punctuated in recent years by the growth of new technologies used in creating, organizing, and retrieving information. Many academic librarians are struggling to keep up to date with these technology changes. The profession itself is evolving and reaching out to a new generation of student that is increasingly dependent on these recent technologies, members of the Millennial Generation. However, Millennials are not only students; they are becoming academic librarians who believe they can work with new technologies and evolve libraries in new and exciting ways to meet the needs of students today and into the future. However, there is not a clear understanding of why this generation chose librarianship as a career, what path they desire to take, and their demographics, although the profession is eager to learn about them. These newer and younger librarians are also seeking to have the professionals understand them.

A two part multiple methods (qualitative and quantitative) approach was undertaken for this study. For the quantitative part the researcher surveyed currently employed academic librarians and library school students desiring an academic library career who were born in 1982 to 2000. The survey was designed to gather demographic