



Programming for Adults: A Guide for Small- and Medium-Sized Libraries

Raymond Ranier

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As the mission statements of libraries across the nation change to reflect the realities of post-liberal America and its emphasis on economic values, librarians have had to pick up their long-standing paradigm and move it in an endless shuffle from knowledge stewardship, to information broker, to entertainment director. Many library boards have made it clear that the public library, especially in smaller communities, can earn its keep only by becoming the center of educational, informational, *and* entertainment possibilities for their taxpayers. This has necessitated a ten-year learning curve unprecedented in professional life. Few librarians, even those being schooled today in our graduate schools, are prepared to shift into high gear when it comes to conceptualizing, planning, paying for, and evaluating public programs for their patrons.

Unlike its predecessors that leave ideas for public programming to the imagination, *Programming for Adults* lists ideas, names names, and massages the already fertile librarian imagination to the challenge and creativity inherent in adult programming. Legal issues are discussed, possible pitfalls are flagged, and evaluative follow-ups are suggested. The advice put forth in this book can help you put on your show to the satisfaction of your boss and, more importantly, to the accolades of your public.

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