**Off the Beaten Path: Best Practices for Librarians and Library Paraprofessionals**

“How to Become an Essential Librarian” by Breanne Kirsch: <http://bit.ly/XcZQYy>

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**I. Finding a Mentor**

* American Library Association Mentoring Programs: <http://www.ala.org/transforminglibraries/mentoring-opportunities>
* South Carolina Library Association Mentoring Program: <http://www.scla.org/content/mentor>
* Southeastern Library Association Mentoring Program: <http://selaonline.org/membership/mentoring.htm>
* ALA-Accredited Master’s in Library and Information Science Programs: <http://www.ala.org/accreditedprograms/directory>

**II. Reading the Literature**

* American Library Association Periodicals: <http://www.ala.org/offices/library/alaperiodicals>



**III. Collaborate/Teamwork**

* <http://liscareer.com/education>
* Doucett, E. (2011). What they don't teach you in library school. Chicago, Ill: American Library Association.
* Heathfield, Susan M. “Twelve Tips for Team Building: How to Build Successful Work Teams.” (<http://humanresources.about.com/od/involvementteams/a/twelve_tip_team.htm>)
* <http://www.teambuilding-leader.com/>

**IV. Adaptability/Flexibility**

* <http://www.americasjobexchange.com/career-advice/flexibility-at-work>
* Castellano, W. G. (2014). Practices for engaging the 21st century workforce: Challenges of talent management in a changing workplace.
* <http://www.success.com/article/do-you-have-adaptability>
* <http://www.kent.ac.uk/careers/sk/adaptability.htm>
* <http://www.careercast.com/career-news/adaptability-key-todays-job-market>

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**V. Become a Leader**

* Cromer, D. E. (2009). Special Libraries Association: The Importance of Leadership. *Journal of Library Administration*, *49*(8), 887-893. doi:10.1080/01930820903397226
* DeLong, K. (2009). The Engagement of New Library Professionals in Leadership. *Journal of Academic Librarianship*, *35*(5), 445-456.
* Watson, J. (2014). Be a Leader by Knowing Yourself. *Young Adult Library Services, 12*(2), 4-5.

**VI. Be Persistent**

* Caputo, J. (1991). *Stress and Burnout in Library Service.* Phoenix, Arizona: Oryx Press.