



## MaryAnn Burden Youth Services Librarian



*I am responsible for youth service library programs and materials for babies, children of all ages, young adults, and their parents and adult care givers.*

### **How long have you been a librarian?**

I have been working as a librarian for 15 years.

### **Where do you currently work?**

I work for the Chester Public Library in New Jersey.

### **How do you spend most of your time at work?**

- 1) Planning and running library programs for children, teens and families
- 2) Selecting the books and materials for our collection for the Children's Room and the Teen Room
- 3) Assisting children and adults who visit the library looking for information and materials
- 4) Updating information on our website and promoting library programs and services

### **Why did you choose this career?**

This is actually my second career. I have a Bachelor of Science in Food Science and worked as a scientist for about 20 years. I chose this career because I wanted to work closely with people and help others. I especially enjoy working with children and find it very rewarding.

### **What did you do to prepare for this career?**

In order to receive a professional librarian certification in New Jersey, you must complete a master's degree program in library science, such as a Master of Library Science (MLS) or Master of Library and Information Studies (MLIS). Not all libraries and positions, however, require the certification.

### **What do you enjoy most about your job?**

I really enjoy the variety of the work and that no two days are ever the same. I'm always learning new things through my interactions with other people, and I love getting to know the children and the families who visit all the time.

### **What do you find most challenging about your job?**

Working with the public can sometimes be challenging, but it is also very rewarding.

### **What was one of your first jobs and how did that experience influence your career path?**

I worked at Burger King assembling burgers and sandwiches. It was summer and very hot working by the broiler. By the end of the summer I was sure I did not want to work at Burger King any more!

### **What is one piece of advice you would give to a young person who is interested in your profession?**

A librarian provides service to all kinds of people, so you must like interacting and helping people. It's not enough to just love books!

### **MARYANN'S FUN FACT**

*I play the ukulele so I really enjoy Hawaiian music. One of my favorite musicians is IZ, a famous Hawaiian singer and songwriter.*

