Supreme Librarians in Metaspace

Explore the Infinite...
Become a Librarian!
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It's like my four years of college just went down the toilet. I'm not using my degree at all! I'm not helping anyone!

It only took you four years...

I just wish we could find something better!

you seek adventure and purpose? Seek no more, for your search has borne ripe fruit! Behold! I am...

KRAK-KOOM

Um, there's a guy behind you... kinda naked...
I ask you, what nobler purpose could one find than a life dedicated to collecting a world of knowledge under one roof?

That's a lot of stuff.

We librarians have assembled collections reflecting the breadth and depth of human accomplishment, in order to continue that upward journey!

We may gaze upon our folly, as well, and hope to never return to such dark and calamitous epochs! It all lies here, compiled over millennia and waiting to be tapped.

I represent an ancient and wise society, dedicated to informing all who seek knowledge, we are the Supreme Librarians In Metaspace.

Dramatic much?

Pfft! Hilarious. Slum, huh?
Indeed, they are preserving knowledge that is threatened, staving off the darkness and safeguarding culture for the future. Without these noble servants of wisdom, the world would stop turning, our momentum halted by ignorance.

Again with the drama.

Do not disregard the weight of history. Progress comes through the accumulation and thoughtful use of knowledge.

Knowledge must be preserved, not for the sake of preservation, but for the sake of improvement.

Okay, okay. We get it. Librarians and archivists are stewards.

You begin to understand. But now, you must move on and build upon that understanding.

Here we go again!
Precisely! It is my nature to organize information. What use is all this knowledge if one cannot find the material one needs?

This particular library is troublesome, as you can see. But I think a certain classification system created by a certain handsome librarian will do the trick!

And where are your books on egotism?

So, librarians collect, preserve, and organize stuff. Simple enough.

Well, how wrong you are! This "stuff" is merely the beginning! Arranging knowledge is crucial, but with no seeker of knowledge, what purpose is there?

Without someone to serve, the librarian works in vain!

Remember, we librarians encourage the intellectual journey, facilitating the imaginative quest.

Now, if you will excuse me, I must continue sorting these items!
I'm driving a van full of books and cats. There's no way I could be a librarian, right?

Point taken. Are all of you "meta-librarians" so snarky?

Get the name right. Supreme Librarians in Metaspace.

I'll just call you Slim.

Thanks for noticing, but we've got work to do, hotshot.

I've got stuff to people that need it.

Well, yeah, but more than that. I mean making sure everyone has equal access to information they need.

Yeah?

VAN IS THE QUICKEST WAY?

IT'S A METAPHOR, DUDE. ALL IT MEANS IS THAT INFORMATION HAS TO BE ACCESSIBLE TO EVERYONE, ANYTIME, ANYWHERE.

The last guy had a cart. So this is like, a huge step forward.

So what does the whole "metaspace" thing even mean?

It means we're everywhere, sweetie. Everywhere.
Welcome to our library! Our assignment for today is to create knowledge. Would you care to join us?

Sure, but how can we create knowledge?

It happens all the time in libraries! It's about having a shared conversation, then building on what others have done. What ideas they've had, see?

You just have to make sure you have the right tools for the job. Building new knowledge helps us all. Communities grow and flourish around a good library. Because a good library provides its community with a unique set of tailored resources.

Ding! Ding! Ding!

Oops! Time to go!

Ahh! I didn't think that vest could get any harder to look at!

Very funny, young man.
LET'S MOVE IT! ONWARD AND UPWARD! LIBRARIANS, NO!

WE'RE NOT EVEN IN A LIBRARY!

WE ARE THE LIBRARY! WE CARRY WITHIN US THE EXPERTISE TO FIND INFORMATION IN ANY SITUATION, NO MATTER HOW DIRE, NO MATTER HOW DANGEROUS! LIBRARIANS COME FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE AND ANY TYPE OF EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND. WE ARE AS VARIED AS THE MANY ADVENTURES WE PURSUE!

GLOBAL DISASTERS

WE DON'T JUST RECOMMEND ROMANCE NOVELS. LIBRARIANS GO WHEREVER INFORMATION IS NEEDED.

LIBRARIANS SERVE ALL THOSE IN NEED, AND DO SO WITHOUT FEAR. WE SERVE WITH EVERY OUNCE OF BLOOD AND SWEAT WE'VE GOT.

SO, WHAT'S THAT WHIP FOR?

OVERDUE FINES.

GOVERNMENT

INTELLIGENCE ANALYSIS

VITAL RESEARCH

PRISONS
WHERE ARE WE?

I DON'T KNOW!

YOU ARE SAFE. DO NOT WORRY-- YOUR FUTURE COALESCES AS WE SPEAK.

THAT'S REASSURING...

WELCOME. I REPRESENT THE FUTURE OF LIBRARIES.

THE FUTURE? BUT YOU LOOK JUST LIKE US... OR IS THAT THE POINT?

I DIDN'T WANT TO SAY ANYTHING BEFORE, BUT THIS IS TOO DICKENSIAN TO IGNORE...

OK, WE'RE SELLING LIBRARIES. SO, WHAT DO WE DO NOW? HOW DO WE PROVE OURSELVES?

YOU KNOW...

THE ANSWER WILL PRESENT ITSELF.

...FOR COMING FROM SOMEONE WHO'S SUPPOSED TO HELP FIND ANSWERS, THAT WAS PRETTY VAGUE!

THE FUTURE OF LIBRARIES IS YOURS TO SHAPE. WE FACE MANY CHALLENGES... IT IS UP TO YOU TO DETERMINE HOW LIBRARIANS WILL MEET THOSE CHALLENGES. WILL IT BE WITH A FIRM SENSE OF CONFIDENCE? OR WILL YOU FALTER WHEN CONFRONTED BY THOSE WHO SAY YOU ARE NO LONGER NEEDED?
WHERE TO NOW?

NO IDEA. BUT THIS WHOLE EXISTENCE OUTSIDE OF THE NORMAL FLOW OF SPACETIME MAKES ME SURPRISINGLY THIRSTY.

THERE! I CAN SEE SOMETHING!

LOOKS LIKE A COLLEGE CAMPUS.

ASTUTE OBSERVATION.
SO, ARE WE CUT OUT FOR THIS?

IF WE CAN HANDLE BEING RIPPLED OUT OF SYNC WITH REALITY
AND DRAGGED THROUGH WORMHOLES OR WHATEVER, WE CAN
HANDLE GRAD SCHOOL.

GOOD POINT.

WELL, THAT WORKED OUT. COME ON, LET'S GO TAKE A LOOK.

HEY!

“SCHOOL OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT,” SLEW! ISN'T THAT AMAZING?

VED... STUNNING, SIMPLY STUNNING.

THE END... AND THE BEGINNING!
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- Have the support and guidance of a local advisor at one of our well-established regional teaching sites: Emporia and Overland Park, Kansas; Denver, Colorado; Salt Lake City and Orem, Utah; and Portland, Oregon. Coming soon to Atlanta, Georgia!

- Earn a degree that provides you with the flexibility to work in a variety of environments and professions, not just in a library.

- Be part of an American Library Association accredited program that will make you more attractive to potential employers.

- Have more money to spend and less student debt than you’d have with other library and information science programs.

- Participate in practical experiences that boost your professional knowledge and marketability.

Want to know more? Turn the page!

Email: sliminfo@emporia.edu  Phone (toll-free): 800-552-4770
Visit us on the web at http://slim.emporia.edu
The School of Library and Information Management (SLIM) at Emporia State University has been educating librarians and information professionals since 1902. We take pride in our commitment to service, diversity, innovation, and academic excellence. You can find SLIM alumni in libraries and information organizations all over the country. SLIM graduates have a reputation of being creative, service-oriented professionals capable of leading their organization from any position. We hope that you will join us as we help shape the future of how information is created, managed, and accessed.

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About the Creators

C. Michael Hall, Artist
C. Michael Hall is a writer, award-winning cartoonist, and former librarian. In addition to writing and/or drawing comics for libraries, Mike is the writer of Ape Entertainment’s Helldorado series, Hooligan from Viper Comics (co-created with Dustin Evans), and Throwback: The Past and Future Man!, a digital comic book released through iVerse Media. He is also writing and drawing a series of military history graphic novels for a leading educational publisher. Mike holds a degree in History and Politics from McPherson College and teaches a college course in cartooning in Southeastern Kansas, where he lives with his wife-to-be (who just happens to be a librarian) and two cats. His website can be found at www.cmichaelhall.com.

Matt Upson, Writer
Matt Upson has been an academic library director, educator, and the director of a library science graduate program. He has a degree in education from Oklahoma State University and a Master of Library Science degree from Emporia State University. Reading is obviously his favorite pastime, but he also enjoys running (slowly) and traveling. He lives in the middle of Kansas with his beautiful wife, infant son, and adorable dog. You can view his website at http://upsonlibrarian.weebly.com.

Dustin Evans, Colorist
Dustin Evans has been drawing since he could hold a pencil. In 2005 he graduated from Oklahoma State University with a BFA in Illustration and Graphic Design. Dustin began working professionally as an illustrator in 2004 with Disney and Ape Entertainment. Since then he has gone on to work with several clients big and small. He resides in Oklahoma with his family. His website can be seen at www.dustinevans.biz.