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Greenwood County Library  
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## LETTER OF REFERENCE FOR ROBERT SLABAUGH

I highly recommend Bobby Slabaugh for a position as reference librarian. I have worked with him on the reference staff of the Greenwood County Library in Greenwood, South Carolina since he first arrived in July, 2005. He is dedicated, hard-working, responsible, helpful, persistent, and patient. He has a strong desire to learn, and it's obvious that he really enjoys being a reference librarian.

In our library, the reference room also houses our public Internet computers. Only one librarian is scheduled on the reference desk at a time, and thus it can be very busy! Besides looking up information and showing patrons how to use our reference resources, we schedule patrons for the computers, ensure that they have signed computer use agreements, assist them with Internet searches and word processing features, help them with printing problems, help them use our copier, and answer the telephone. After his introduction to our library's circulation system and public catalog, Bobby stepped right in and handled the Reference Desk independently by the end of the first week. He is very dedicated to helping patrons as much as possible, and he remains calm in the midst of multiple demands. He is especially helpful to patrons who are inexperienced using computers and navigating the Internet. He is persistent in trying to locate the information or resources that a patron seeks. After showing patrons a subject area on the shelves, he will return to ensure that they have found what they need. We also keep a notebook of reference questions and the resources we use. Bobby has taken the additional step of going to the resources the rest of us have listed to learn more about them.

Bobby's reference collection development area includes the 100s, 300s, and 500s, chosen because of his interest in psychology, social issues, and science. I think he has a good grasp of both book selection and weeding. He checks the shelves to see what we already have and what titles are outdated or worn-out. He reads reviews in professional journals and also searches online for further titles or updated editions. Because he is new here, he will usually ask us how often various titles are actually used and whether we think a title which excites him will be useful in this library. Bobby is organized enough to keep track of his budget and the space limitations of our shelves.

Bobby also works diligently on our Obituary Index project. Our local newspaper has been microfilmed but not indexed, so the library reference staff has undertaken an index of obituaries from 1895 on. Bobby is conscientious about asking questions to make sure he gets the details right. This is an independent project "as time permits", but Bobby has set goals for himself and has already completed one year of the index. Bobby has also served on the Internet Committee, which developed an updated and more comprehensive computer use policy this fall. Bobby contributed observations from his experience at the Greenbrier Library which were very helpful. In addition, he assists our Reference Supervisor with the library web page by updating information.

It is a pleasure to work with Bobby. I really appreciate his positive outlook and willingness to participate in our staff activities, such as the Sunshine Committee. He spent an entire day helping lug and unpack many boxes of donated books during our Book Sale. He is a good team member who is willing to take additional shifts on the Reference Desk or trade evenings or weekends as needed. And we really enjoy his cheerful sense of humor and funny stories about his experiences. Bobby is a very valuable member of our team, and we would miss him a great deal if he moved to another library.

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