

## COMPETENCY MODEL FOR PRINCIPAL LIBRARIAN (6155)

The following competencies have been identified as those that best separate superior from satisfactory job performance in the class of **PRINCIPAL LIBRARIAN**. (Numbers refers to the order of the competencies in the Competency Bank.)

- 3. Judgment and Decision Making
- 20. Job Knowledge
- 28. Supervision
- 30. Fiscal Management
- 32. Responsiveness and Follow-Up
- 34. Customer Service
- 38. Tolerance
- 48. Shares Knowledge and Information
- 49. Project Management

On the following pages are descriptions of each competency, including a definition, the level of the competency required for the class (*italicized*, **bolded**, and underlined), examples of behavioral indicators, and satisfactory and superior performance levels.

**3. JUDGMENT AND DECISION MAKING** – Accurately assesses situations, seeks new information if necessary, and applies all available information to reach sound conclusions/formulate effective response.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

Level 1: Training and guidelines needed to respond to immediate situations within very specific function are provided (or supervisor available to assist).

Level 2: General information and guidance to assist in responding to a variety of situations across a range of circumstances are provided.

**Level 3:** **Little guidance available for responding to a wide range of complex situations with far-reaching and/or enduring consequences.**

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Effectively responds to atypical situations.
- Asks questions or otherwise obtains additional relevant information to make a decision.
- Formulates a decision and necessary actions based on available facts.
- Correctly infers appropriate response based on information provided and existing policies, personal experience, and/or consultation with others.
- Discusses conclusions/possible responses with others before taking action as necessary.
- Considers impact of decisions on all affected parties.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Correctly assesses routine and unusual situations and reaches appropriate conclusions for actions needed. Obtains additional information and/or consults with others as necessary.

Superior

Evaluates new situations accurately to establish an appropriate response or plan of action. Recognizes the impact on all affected parties, as well as the possible ramifications and/or repercussions of setting a precedent.

**20. JOB KNOWLEDGE** – Knows information required to perform a specific job. Includes both widely available courses of study (for example, chemistry, human resources management, graphic arts) and City-specific information (parking regulation and ticketing practices; purchasing procedures; provisions of the City Charter).

Level of Competency Required by Job:

Level 1: Knowledge is concrete, factual, and/or procedural and may be defined by the organization. Situations in which it is applied are quite consistent.

**Level 2:** **Knowledge is substantive and may be defined by an external trade, field, or profession. Situations in which it is applied vary and, as such, require breadth and depth of understanding.**

Level 3: Knowledge is abstract, conceptual, and/or complex and may be supported by a well-defined academic discipline or authoritative sources (e.g., laws, ordinances, government guidelines/regulations/codes). Situations in which it is applied may vary greatly or be novel.

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Performs work correctly/avoids technical (job content related) errors.
- Answers technical questions about work accurately.
- Asks few technical questions about the performance of routine work activities.
- Offers advice (“coaching”) to new employees regarding their work.
- Develops training programs for other employees.
- Sought out as a source of information by others.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Sufficient job knowledge to perform work correctly independently. Answers technical questions about work correctly.

Superior

Expertise in technical job information sufficient to serve as a resource to others. May develop training manuals/programs and/or give internal and/or external presentations related to work.

## **Job Knowledge Areas**

1. Knowledge of the Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL) structure and how each agency/branch relates to all the others, in order to function as an integral part of the library system.
2. Knowledge of the LAPL mission statement, the strategic plan, and the policies of the Board of Library Commissioners, sufficient to direct staff in their implementation.
3. Knowledge of the LAPL collection development policy regarding the acquisitions, rejections, or withdrawal of library materials from the collection, sufficient to recommend and decide library materials to be purchased or withdrawn.
4. Knowledge of LAPL reference and advisory service guidelines sufficient to direct staff in their implementation.
5. Knowledge of professional organizations and conferences, such as the American Library Association and the California Library Association, sufficient to be aware of local and national trends and issues, such as developments and advances in technology and the field of library and information science and recommend new and improved library services.
6. Knowledge of library building architecture and space planning sufficient to plan arrangement of library materials, furniture, and equipment in order to promote the most efficient and safe use of facilities by patrons and staff.
7. Knowledge of services and initiatives provided by LAPL to the community, such as services for children, teens, non-English speakers, and new immigrants.
8. Knowledge of the various departments within the City of Los Angeles and how they interact with LAPL.
9. Knowledge of service and community organizations, including City Council offices, neighborhood councils, and schools sufficient to assess community needs.
10. Knowledge of the LAPL acquisition procedures, sufficient to monitor compliance with the procedures and order necessary materials and equipment for library operations.

**28. SUPERVISION** – Ability to assume direct responsibility for all aspects of the performance of a work group, which requires knowledge and/or ability in the areas of:

- Planning and goal setting
- Creating a safe and positive work environment
- Establishing standards and training employees
- Motivating employees and teambuilding
- Performance Management (assigning, monitoring, facilitating, reviewing and evaluating work, and providing feedback)
- Supporting and developing employees through delegation and participation
- Taking disciplinary action including progressive discipline
- Provisions of employees' MOU's and handling grievances
- Legal requirements including EEO, ADA, FLSA, FMLA, and Workers' Compensation provisions
- Civil Service Commission Rules and Policies related to the management of employees
- Administrative Code provisions related to the management of employees
- Budget processes sufficient to request and justify expenditures in a correct and timely manner

Level of Competency Required by Job:

Level 1: Supervises small workgroup of employees performing the same or highly related work.

Level 2: Supervises a larger workgroup of employees performing various types of work.

**Level 3: *Supervises employees including provision of coaching and advice to subordinate supervisors.***

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Plans, assigns, and monitors work progress.
- Trains employees to do work.
- Evaluates work and gives positive and negative feedback.
- Displays knowledge of legal requirements including applicable Federal and State laws, Administrative Code provisions, Civil Service Commission Rules and Policies, and MOU provisions.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Proficiency in supervision sufficient to supervise a workgroup in terms of task orientation, interpersonal concerns, and personnel administration.

Superior

Proficiency in supervision sufficient to serve as a resource to others and/or represent department position in a public forum.

**30. FISCAL MANAGEMENT** – Develops and justifies budget proposals in a way that garners support; monitors expenditures for compliance; systematically adjusts expenditures when warranted.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

Level 1: Identify equipment and services with demonstrable cost-effectiveness for improving operations and prepare detailed budget requests that provide ample justification for purchase. Ensure money is spent for intended purpose.

**Level 2:** **Identify staffing needs, needs for equipment and services, and other expenditures that are necessary to fulfill the mission of a function or segment of the organization. Provide ample, compelling justification. Ensures that money is spent for intended or highly related purpose.**

Level 3: Consider the mission of the entire organization and current priorities in determining which budget proposals to submit. Provide compelling arguments for the proposals submitted that include reference to proposals omitted. Use money for intended purpose unless priorities or other circumstances change.

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Identifies expenditures that will be cost-effective in their contribution to accomplishing work.
- Conducts research to determine the best available option for purchase.
- Tailors justification for budget request to the specific need and current circumstances.
- Uses money for its intended purpose.
- Makes adjustments to expenditures in accordance with price increases, changing priorities, and City policy.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Recognizes the critical role of the budget process in City functioning. Knows the budget cycle and makes timely submissions for all desired expenditures.

Superior

Provides convincing justifications that reflect essential organizational functions, demonstration of cost-effectiveness, and consideration of current political/economic/social climate.

**32. RESPONSIVENESS AND FOLLOW-UP** – Executes actions as requested or to which a commitment has been made; continues involvement as needed.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

Level 1: Willingly accept job assignments and, upon completion, asks whether any other actions are necessary.

**Level 2:** **Ensure that all job responsibilities are fulfilled within their designated timeframes. Willingly accept, and may volunteer for, additional assignments, but does not overextend. Anticipate and accommodate the need for continued involvement.**

Level 3: Ensure that staff and other resources are available (or can be made available) to reasonably allow for completion of work before making a commitment. If not, make adjustments to ensure completion of work or re-establish priorities and communicate to all involved parties. Recognize the probable need for continuation of some staff involvement beyond the designated timeframe to ensure success.

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Willingly accepts assignments and completes assigned work.
- Monitors “completed” work to determine whether additional issues to be addressed have arisen.
- Volunteers for assignments when able to assure their timely completion.
- Carefully considers available staff and resources, and competing priorities, before making commitments to complete additional work.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Completes assigned work. Realistically appraises the likelihood of completing additional work before accepting or volunteering for it. Recognizes the usual need for follow-up once assignments are submitted.

Superior

Completes assigned work in an expeditious manner. Often ready to accept additional work or volunteer for it. Readjusts priorities and/or revises plans to maximize productivity. Diligently monitors the possible need for follow-up.

**34. CUSTOMER SERVICE** – Interacts with recipients of services (internal or external customers) in a way that provides accurate, timely, and effective information and service.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

Level 1: Interact with customers in person, over the telephone, or through e-mail (and/or other electronic media) in order to provide information or assistance. Listen to customer concerns; explain/reconcile information and provide alternatives if possible; facilitate resolution by making referral and/or following-up as necessary.

Level 2: Promotes positive customer service. Serves as a model of providing exemplary customer service.

**Level 3:** ***Develop customer-oriented procedures; identifies changes in procedures to enhance customer service and ensures they are implemented.***

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Carefully listens to (or reads) customer statement of the issue.
- Provides direct, informative, accurate responses to customer.
- Suggests options if available.
- Maintains a positive attitude in the face of customer complaint or frustration.
- Remains focused on the issue presented by the customer and directs the customer back to the issue if necessary.
- Asks the customer if their concerns have been fully addressed.
- Ensures organizational policies and practices are customer-focused.
- Ensures all employees recognize their responsibility for customer service and are properly trained for it.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Displays knowledge as well as courtesy and patience when interacting with customers. Ensures customers' issue is correctly identified and remains focused on it until it is resolved.

Superior

Seeks further information or advice to resolve difficult issues. Solicits feedback on the effectiveness of service. Makes suggestions for improving service and facilitates changes needed to implement.



**38. TOLERANCE** – Accepts all forms of diversity, including different, even contrary, points of view.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

Level 1: Accepting of co-workers, other employees, and members of the public regardless of their stated beliefs or assumptions that might be made based on their appearance or status.

**Level 2:** **Work well with others regardless of their stated beliefs or affiliations, appearance, or idiosyncrasies. Recognize the value of different points of view among members of a work group or team.**

Level 3: Embrace a diverse work group as a possible means of advancing objectives of the organization. Encourage airing of different, even contrary, points of view as a means of ensuring that all possible factors are considered and alternatives explored.

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Works well with a diversity of others.
- Provides comparable service to all members of the public.
- Accepts differences in others even with respect to factors that would not be acceptable personally.
- Recognizes that judging others on a personal basis/displaying intolerance is inappropriate in the workplace.
- Encourages all others to openly state their views on work-related matters.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Works well with a diverse array of other people. Provides service or otherwise interacts with others in a manner that is consistent and fair.

Superior

Recognizes the potential for diversity to strengthen the organization. Welcomes and fully considers diverse points of view, and makes every effort to ensure others do the same.

**48. SHARES KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION** – Conveys all information relevant to each involved party in a thorough and timely manner.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

Level 1: Provide job-related information as it becomes available to others who are likely to need it or to whom it might be helpful.

**Level 2:** **Keep all involved parties informed of work/project progress and other new information. Tailors content, level of detail, and timing of information provided to the perspective of each recipient**

Level 3: Recognize different needs for different information and provide all affected parties with a description of the “big picture” as well as the breadth and detail of information relevant to their perspective.

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Provides thorough explanations with all relevant details.
- Uses multiple means of communicating (e.g., e-mail, telephone, meetings).
- Provides status reports of work/project progress to all involved parties.
- Informs others of changes at the earliest feasible time.
- Uses multiple addressees and “copies” others so all parties see exactly the same information and know who already has been informed.
- Draws from job knowledge and work experience to provide thorough descriptions and explanations.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Readily communicates new, job-related information to all employees to whom it is relevant. Provides a level of detail and explanation appropriate to the recipient.

Superior

Ensures that all involved parties are provided the maximum amount of information feasible in as timely a manner as possible to facilitate work/project status. Shares job knowledge and experience to serve as a mentor or coach to others.

**49. PROJECT MANAGEMENT** – Anticipates and plans for all aspects of a multi-faceted, discrete endeavor to ensure resources are available and actions are taken at proper times for successful completion.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

Level 1: Plan, coordinate, and oversee accomplishment of multi-step projects involving other employees.

**Level 2:** **Design, plan, coordinate, and manage large, multi-faceted projects involving employees from various segments of the organization representing different perspectives.**

Level 3: Design, plan, secure approval and resources, and manages large-scale, complex projects involving many employees representing a large number of diverse segments of the organization and perspectives, which may at times be in conflict.

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Establishes project plans that gain management acceptance.
- Establishes realistic timeline and estimates of resources needed.
- Assembles appropriate team with complementary skills to efficiently execute all portions of a project.
- Secures necessary resources for successful project completion.
- Clearly designates roles/responsibilities/accountability.
- Addresses failure to perform or other problems in a timely and effective manner to minimize negative impact.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Establishes acceptable project plan; assembles team with required skills; establishes personal responsibility/accountability. Ensures the necessary time and resources are available.

Superior

Designs efficient project plan to maximize benefits and minimize use of resources. Designates precise mix of people to best accomplish the project. Completes on time, with resources allocated.