

Author: Burch, Katrina 11/18/2010 | 8:43 AM

someone asks you about how to build a bomb, what do you do?

This is tricky but I would probably ask my supervisor. I was discussing this question with my dad last night and he made a comment that somebody who was really looking to make a bomb, more than likely wouldn't ask somebody how to do it. There are multiple results and sites just by googling it. So I would also probably ask questions like, "what type of explosives are you looking to do research on" and gauge how they answer that question.

Another patron looks a little rough and wants to know more about gangs, what do you do?

Do an interview, just like any other patron. I may feel a little nervous but I would try not to show it. I would try not to judge people

A teenager looking distressed asks about information on suicide, what do you do?

This one is a little touchy for both me and in general. I would try thinking that they were really depressed but I would give them all the resources that I knew. Including resources for counseling, help and suicide prevention. Just because a teenager looks distressed doesn't mean that he/she is planning to commit suicide. They may be distressed because of other things such as pressed for times, etc.

You observe a patron looking at hardcore pornographic images on the computers in the adult section of the library, but there younger patrons in the area and some are expressing interest in what the adult is looking at by peering over his shoulder, what do you do?

I would tell the patron that what he is looking at is inappropriate library behavior and if anything more would going on (like Judy's case) I would call the police. Masturbation is illegal in public in the US.

a homeless man smelling less than pleasant is walking around the stacks yelling "You're Fired" repeatedly. The patrons in the vicinity are obviously distressed about this. What do you do?

I would calmly try to talk to him to see how he is disturbing others. If things don't quiet down, I would probably call the police.

It's hard for me to know how to handle these questions (which is one of my fears!) because I've never worked reference before.