

## **Career Profile: School Librarian working in Hertfordshire**

I did not plan to become a School Librarian, but I am so glad I did!

Once I'd finished my trainee year at the Taylor Institution in 2011, I was certain that a career in librarianship was for me. I enrolled on the Distance Learning Master's course at the University of Aberystwyth so that I could continue to gain professional experience alongside my studies. I continued to work at the Taylorian as a Library Assistant for a couple of months, before gaining a fixed-term contract at the Main Enquiry Desk at the Bodleian. I loved working in academic environment and always envisaged a career in university libraries, but as the months ticked away on my fixed-term contract I started to consider other options.

This led me to a two -year stint working in corporate/medical librarianship as an Information Specialist for a multinational pharmaceutical company based in Hertfordshire. This gave me an interesting insight into working in another sector, as well as experience working in a small library. I worked alongside the Library Manager to gain valuable skills in library management. From here, I felt that I was ready to take my first professional post.

By this time, I was tied to staying in Hertfordshire due to various commitments, so this restricted my options somewhat. When I saw an advert for a School Librarian post in Bishop's Stortford, I thought it was worth a try. I was lucky enough to be successful in my application, and here I am two years on!

The role is about as varied as librarianship gets. I am involved with all aspects of running a busy school library, including resource selection and purchase, running clubs, organising events, teaching information skills and ensuring that the library's collections and services remain relevant to the work of the school. No two days are the same and there is never a dull moment! The biggest surprise for me was the opportunities that the role has brought me: I have been on numerous day trips, participated in sports day, and I was even given the chance to accompany some of our A Level students on a trip to Uganda.

I genuinely love my job and - as cheesy as it sounds - I don't think I would be here if it wasn't for the excellent training I received in Oxford!