

A Day in the Life: Law Librarian

Sponsored by: CALL Placement & Recruitment Committee

Purpose: To provide Masters of Library Science students, recent graduates, and individuals exploring a possible career change the opportunity to follow a law librarian at their place of work, going through their daily activities. Essentially, this would be a one day job shadow, although it could be longer if both participants have time and find it worthwhile.

The overall goal of this program is to increase knowledge about, and interest in, law librarianship by highlighting the typical workflow and daily responsibilities of various positions within law libraries.

Content: Content will vary depending on the librarian's role in the organization. Librarians should talk to these individuals about what a typical day entails for administrative/management, research and/or reference, or technical services positions.

A vital component for librarians of any discipline is the ability to answer questions a student or those seeking a career change might have. Consult with the student to discover what they hope to get out of the day prior to the actual meeting. If the student simply desires to pick the brain of someone in the profession, the program should be open to that. If the individual would rather sit down and be shown typical tools (Westlaw, Lexis, standard print resources) and their uses, that more hands-on approach should be catered to as well.

A tour of the library should definitely be included so the individual can see the variety of materials and resources typically available in law libraries. If applicable or desired, a meet and greet session with other librarians in the organization to briefly discuss their roles might also be beneficial. One point that should definitely be discussed is whether or not prior knowledge of the law and/or legal resources is required prior to taking a position or if that is something candidates can learn on the job.

Who: Strictly voluntary, but with emphasis on diversity of disciplines in law librarianship. Librarians and/or staff from different types of legal organizations should be utilized to showcase the many different aspects of law librarianship.

Where: At the librarian's workplace.

Long term: Librarian(s) would provide contact information for follow-up or further discussion.

To volunteer, please contact John or Katie.

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