MEMBER PROFILE

DAVID MATCHEN JR.

- HEAD OF CIRCULATION/REFERENCE LIBRARIAN
- UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE LAW LIBRARY
- BALTIMORE, MD

FAVORITE THING ABOUT YOUR JOB?
In recent years, I am happy to say that my teaching role has grown significantly, as we assumed gradually increasing responsibility for the legal research curriculum for first-year students. This represents a new opportunity to train students to research more effectively and efficiently, and they’ve really taken to it.

IF YOU COULD HAVE ANY SUPERPOWER, WHAT WOULD IT BE AND WHY?
Superpowers are a trade-off. For instance, having an eidetic memory means you can never truly forget anything, which presents all sorts of potential psychological issues. So, you want a superpower that is helpful, but not so much that it makes your life boring or comes with a downside that annuls its benefits. That’s why I’ve decided on instant, at-will, error-free teleportation to any spot on the planet. Never having to deal with the TSA again would make any drawbacks pale by comparison.

WHAT INSpires YOU MOST?
Clever solutions to nigh-intractable problems. How can you be in two places at once? How do we run this library without blowing through our budget on July 2? Our profession is a litany of dilemmas, compounded by perennial scarcity of space, time, and money. To survive, we must become more clever and skillful; if we don’t, we risk becoming a lost resource, one that our country desperately needs now.

THREE GOALS FOR THE YEAR?
1) Appear (and win) on Jeopardy!
2) Get the passport back in order, since that teleportation thing seems unlikely.