

MEMBER PROFILE

VANTAGE POINT

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- RESEARCH LIBRARIAN
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SUPERPOWER YOU WISH YOU HAD AND WHY?

I'm not sure it counts as a superpower, but the Vulcans from *Star Trek* had the wonderful power to "mind meld" with other beings, creating temporary mental links. More than simply telepathic communication, this facilitated the exchange of feelings and lived experiences. I would love to have a way to create empathetic human connections in a time when so much of our communication is (poorly) mediated by various technologies. I think you could accomplish a great deal just by cutting through the noise. It would also save me the time of writing up entire emails when I respond to reference questions.

IF YOU WROTE AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY, WHAT WOULD ITS TITLE BE AND WHY?

A Life Down the Rabbit Hole. While some research is mundane, I have always loved the questions that will take you halfway around the world if you let them. I previously studied archaeology, and I followed those research interests from an Irish mountainside to north coastal Peru, and to the U.S. National Central Bureau of Interpol. These days my research activities are considerably more domestic, but no less exciting (OK, maybe a little less exciting). But I am still amazed by how deep you can go when you just keep digging.

WHAT INSPIRES YOU MOST?

While I enjoy research for its own sake, I think what really inspires me is having the chance to directly help others. Librarianship is service oriented in general, but what gives the work special resonance for me is that each project is important to someone. Whether I'm teaching a student how to navigate legal resources or digging into obscure academic research for a professor, it's tremendously satisfying to help someone accomplish something they care about.

FAVORITE THING ABOUT YOUR JOB?

Solving little mysteries (and sometimes big ones). Law is the ideal engine for generating interesting problems, and I am delighted that I get to spend my days investigating them. I can't imagine another job that would give me the chance to go on so many little adventures into obscure corners of the information landscape.

FAVORITE QUOTE?

"Research is formalized curiosity. It is poking and prying with a purpose." - Zora Neale Hurston, *Dust Tracks on a Road*