

FINDING MY PATH TO LAW LIBRARIANSHIP

I knew I wanted to be an attorney long before I started law school. Unlike many law students, I went to law school with the intention of never stepping foot in a courtroom. By the time I began my first year of law school, I had already spent three years as an undergrad working in a local boutique law firm and two years working at a large regional firm. While the law firms and the people were great, I couldn't see myself enjoying being a litigator. However, one thing I did realize from this experience was my passion for researching and writing. So, I decided to attend law school to pursue a position that was transactional or research heavy.



The night before I was set to take the bar exam, I was studying with a group of friends at the law school when I noticed a brochure about law librarianship on one of the tables. As I read through the brochure, I realized that a career in law librarianship was ideal for me. Even though I had spent three years in law school and had even taken a class taught by the interim director of the law library at the time, my brain somehow failed to make the connection that law librarianship was a potential career. That night, I decided to start working toward getting my master's degree to become an academic law librarian.

After passing the bar, I accepted a job with the Florida Senate as an attorney bill drafter, which would have admittedly been my dream job before I stumbled upon that law librarianship brochure. The job was heavy in research and required a lot of logical reasoning and critical thinking skills. However, I was still determined to eventually transition into law librarianship, and soon after being hired, I began working toward earning my Master of Information degree from Florida State University. Work and life circumstances, such as the worldwide pandemic, slowed my progress, but I graduated from my master's program in July 2022. Fortunately, a position at Florida State's College of Law Research Center opened the following spring.

I applied for the position and was invited for two rounds of interviews. Even though this was what I had been working toward for six years, making a career change was nerve-wracking. I hadn't touched a Bluebook since law school and had only used Westlaw to look up opinions while I worked for the legislature. Did I really know enough to help law students with research questions? Imposter syndrome was rampant in my mind, but thankfully, the librarians believed in me enough to offer me the job. I have been employed as a research and instruction librarian at Florida State since July 2023, and it is everything I thought it would be. In my first week on the job, I had the opportunity to travel to Boston to attend the 2023 [AALL Annual Meeting & Conference](#) and [CONELL](#). The experience I had there was amazing and gave me even more confidence that I had made the right choice. I believe it is an exciting time to join the profession, especially with the proliferation of generative AI over the past year, and I look forward to watching the profession grow and adapt in the years to come.

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