

GRADUATION REFLECTION

Completing her formal studies may be a recent achievement but working her way into libraries is the culmination of a lifelong interest in stories and adventure for Kathryn Morvell. Now she has a few words of encouragement for her fellow library and information studies students.

I was under five when I ran away to the library. I crossed a main road from the street where we lived before mum caught up with me. Like Dorothy Gale and Jo March, I wanted adventure. Like Anne Shirley, I dreamed of splendid magical times to be had in the library. Like any toddler, I probably threw a tantrum because I didn't get my way.

It may be said that, at 35, I have realised that I want to be part of this profession a little later in my working life than others. I was always going to get here – I just needed to find my way. The path to studying librarianship has been motivated by my passion for reading, my eagerness to learn and my interest in people.

REFLECTING BACK ON THE LAST TWO YEARS OF STUDYING AND WORKING FULL TIME, AT TIMES I HAVE FELT LIKE THE WHITE RABBIT IN ALICE IN WONDERLAND.

I cannot remember a time when I didn't love reading. My parents have always encouraged me in my interest to read and learn, and at times during my teenage years even had to encourage me to engage more with others.

For my Year 10 work experience I worked in a bookstore and then volunteered at the library on Puckapunyal Army Base. I just loved it when new books came in and learning about how they were selected. My interest and excitement in books and people's stories may well have influenced me to study psychology as an undergrad. Those stories led to questions like: How does this work? Why do people behave that way? How can we help and benefit people's lives? How can we help people be informed about their conditions, and keep track of new approaches and research?



Kathryn Morvell:
It won't be easy
but you can do it.

After graduating, the old chestnut of 'you need to get a job' became 'you need to move from regional Victoria to the metropolitan area'. In 2001, there was a real lack of resources in regional Victoria. Job seeking was hard, and I imagine it still is. And I assume that may be the reason why a patron gave me a high five and a hug for helping her work out how to print her resume.

Reflecting back on the last two years of studying and working full time, at times I have felt like the White Rabbit in Alice in Wonderland – constantly worried that I didn't have the time.

When I first started on this path, I had concerns that I couldn't do it. My eldest, ever practical sister said, 'it will be hard work. It will not be easy – if it was then everyone would do it. You are intelligent and you have the time'.

I have often thought of these words while studying, and I would say this to all new students.

It is hard. It won't be easy. But you are intelligent. Off you go down the rabbit hole.

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Kathryn grew up on and around Australian Army bases. She is fascinated by literature and film and her ideal job would involve both of these (plus copious amounts of coffee). Kathryn currently works at Wyndham City Council and aims to move into library services. She blogs at wheredidmylibrarygo.blogspot.com.au