Profile: Erica Smith  
Library Technician, Five Bridges Junior High School

How long have you been working in libraries?

I have been working in libraries for twenty-one years.

What was your first job?

My first job was in the local public library. I was in junior high and was hired as a student to shelve books, work the circulation desk, perform puppet shows and host children’s story time and craft sessions.

Describe your first library job.

Same as above.

If you weren't a librarian/library worker, what would you be and why?

I would be a teacher, as I love working with children. It is very rewarding to watch them grow and learn... and having the summer off doesn’t hurt either.

What do you like best about your current job?

I love that my job provides me with the ability to interact with students. To put the right book in their hands and then listen to the students describe their reading experiences is most rewarding. Then there is the moment that a student who doesn't regularly visit the library comes in and sits down to read a magazine or graphic novel... You know you have made a difference.
Describe your favorite conference experience.

My favorite conference experience was attending the CLA conference in Newfoundland. This was a joint conference with APLA, CLA and NLLA. I was able to attend great sessions, meet library technicians from across the country and attend the CLA Library Technician Interest Group breakfast meeting.

What do you do for fun?

I love spending time with my family. We spend a lot of time camping, hiking, walking in the park, visiting forts and other historic areas.

I also like to spend a quiet evening reading a good murder mystery.

Name one person you admire, and explain why.

I admire my parents. They taught us to have a hard work ethic and put family first. My parents have spent their adult life ensuring that their children and grandchildren have a good life. They’re never one to judge us by our decisions; they try to guide us but in the end support our decisions. My parents are always there to pick up the pieces should we fail and have sacrificed their retirement to ensure that their grandchildren receive the same guidance and support. While many parents do this, they have gone one step further. When some of their grandchildren were left without parents, they took their grandchildren and raised them. They took on parenthood again when they should have been retired and travelling and relaxing. They have never complained or asked for help - they just knew it was something that you do for your family.

If you could say one thing to someone who is interested in a career in libraries, what would it be?

Go to library events, association meetings, conferences and other library social events to network. Meeting other members of the local library community is important to your career in libraries.

If you were stranded at the airport, what would you want to have with you to read, and why?

If I was stranded at the airport I would like to have a J.D. Robb novel to read.