



Who are you, where are you based and what do you do?

I'm Adam Edwards and I work at Middlesex University at the Sheppard Library on the Hendon Campus. Sheppard Library is the HQ for Library and Student Support which covers the library, academic writing and numeracy, wellbeing, counselling and mental health, disability and dyslexia, and student progression. We also have a nice museum, the Museum of Domestic Design and Architecture (<https://moda.mdx.ac.uk/>). I personally think the best space in the Library is the Materials Room which houses all our samples for design students and our fashion collection which includes donated Olympic Uniforms from 2012 (there's a video of the Materials Room [here](#)). Middlesex also has campuses in Dubai, Mauritius, and Malta, but I've not yet had reason to visit them in person.

My job is Library Liaison Manager for the School of Law and the Faculty of Science and Technology. I line manage a team of Liaison Librarians who teach and support the staff and students in those subjects. Teaching is the key role for all our librarians, so we support them to become qualified university teachers if they've not already done so. The team also represents the library at Programme Voice Groups (when we hear from students about their programmes and any concerns) and departmental meetings, whilst I attend the school or faculty quality and planning meetings, so we can keep Library and Student Support in sync with academic planning.

What do you most enjoy about your job?

Managing the team of people, seeing them develop and come up with new things to make what we do better, combined with teaching and helping the students at all levels. Our work on activities and games in teaching over the past few years has been particularly rewarding. (If any members want to see examples, see <https://libguides.mdx.ac.uk/MDXgames>)

The challenge this year is delivering that experience online where you cannot easily replicate a hands-on class. We've created a Moodle Book with videos and quizzes based on the activity-based learning we've previously used. For me, the ultimate moment when you are teaching a student and you see them "get it" is incredibly rewarding.

What motivates you in your work?

It's very much the same as what I enjoy. Developing people and helping students succeed. My best example is a member of staff who joined my team in a previous job. She'd got minimal qualifications having left school at 16. Thanks to experience working for us and a City and Guilds Course she then got onto a Librarianship degree part-time and, whilst juggling job and family, became a qualified librarian. When you start someone off on a career path which is that transformational, it's very rewarding.

How has/can the M25 Consortium support you in your career?

The great thing with the M25 Consortium is the training which enables newer staff to get opportunities which would be much harder to get if paying the higher prices charged elsewhere. Giving team members the chance to get out and learning something new, but also

to network with other people to share good practice is hugely valuable. When someone comes back from a day's training energized and keen to share ideas, it's good to hear and act on.

What would it surprise people to know about you?

I don't think this is a surprise to people who I work with, but one of my non-work passions is getting out on our tandem bicycle with my partner Jane and exploring the countryside. Last year we did a slow historical ride along Hadrian's Wall (100 miles in 10 days is very slow indeed) but this got Jane to try cycling and camping which she'd never done before and we learned an awful lot about the Romans. (If you go to Vindolanda, the shoes and the "postcards" they have dug up are extraordinary.) It's very relaxing pedaling out the miles, as you can't think about work when looking at the passing scenery.



Complete the sentence:

If I wasn't working in a library, I would be... working in a tourist information centre **because...** I could then combine my information searching skills with encouraging everyone to try cycling on their holiday.

(Guess where Adam visited on this trip!)

Adam Edwards, December 2020