



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

Allow me to introduce myself. **Louise Ellis-Barrett, Librarian Acquisitions and Projects at the British Museum.** So, I am based in London, and I am responsible for a team of Assistant Librarians, for the ordering, procuring and receiving of materials for the Museum Library (across the nine curatorial Departments) as well as overseeing and being hands on for the many and varied projects that crop up on a very regular basis!

### **What do you most enjoy about your job?**

I particularly enjoy the challenge of variety. Working with a team of librarians, curatorial colleagues, external colleagues, researchers, and the general public means that no two days are the same. Add to this that when ordering books many challenges can present themselves when searching for some very obscure materials, the excitement of book parcels arriving ... then into the mix add the challenges of managing a team, who in my case are responsible for the day-to-day staffing of the enquiry desk, supporting the team of Librarians. Plus, the many projects that pop up – there is so much happening that there is barely a moment in the day to stop and think and I never know what is around the corner or what the next day will bring!

### **What motivates you in your work?**

I am motivated by the challenge of the unknown, by the puzzle that many of the projects present and by the many and varied queries that present themselves on a daily basis – the role of a librarian is one that never has a dull moment!

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

I am very new to the role played by the M25 Consortium, I recently confessed that although I have been at the Museum for 4 years I was only ever aware of the Consortium as a group of academic libraries with whom we shared access arrangements. Now as British Museum Rep I am looking forward to exploring the many and varied opportunities that the Consortium can offer, the training, the networking, the possibility of linking with more institutions and sharing my own expertise whilst learning from others in the group.

### **What would it surprise people to know about you?**

It would not surprise you to know that I am a big reader but it may surprise you to know that I have 10 chickens and an allotment in my back garden and that my favourite genres of music are rock and metal!

### **Complete the sentence:**

**If I wasn't working in a library I would be...** running a children's bookshop **because...** I have a passion for reading and for starting readers at the youngest possible age to become passionate book lovers and advocates of stories and learning. However, I may also be in an archive or a library researching the development of the study of Egyptology in the UK – the subject of my PhD!

Louise Ellis-Barrett, British Museum, October 2021