

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

My name is Amelia. I am the Graduate Trainee Library Assistant at the Hellenic and Roman Library in the University of London's Institute of Classical Studies. Each August, the library takes on a recent graduate to teach them about working in an academic research library—this year, that's me.

My main responsibilities include accessioning and processing our new monographs (2,500-3000 each year) and running the library's social media pages. I also work at the enquiries desk, assist with binding periodicals, and do the odd jobs that come up now and then!

What do you most enjoy about your job?

Our library is a little bit eccentric, which makes working here constant fun. I am fortunate to have joined such a welcoming and knowledgeable team. I did a BA in Ancient History, so working in a Classics library means that I am surrounded by books that I find interesting.

Also, I am part of a network of trainees in London; we meet up and go on tours of other libraries and archives together. It's lovely to get to know other people in the industry who share my passions and interests.

What motivates you in your work?

It is exciting to be at the start of my career. At the moment, I am motivated by getting as much experience as possible and making the most of each opportunity. So far, I have taken a postgraduate module on Digital Cultural Heritage, attended conservation training workshops, and been to sessions about improving accessibility in libraries and other spaces.

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

The M25 Consortium has created opportunities for me to meet other library professionals. It has been interesting and informative to hear about people's careers in the sector, especially because I am just at the start of mine. Visiting other libraries and learning about the types of roles in them is helping me to decide what I want to work towards.

What would it surprise people to know about you?

I can do a fantastic cartwheel but am otherwise entirely unathletic.

Complete the sentence: If I wasn't working in a library I would be..... because

If I wasn't working in a library I would be making museum exhibitions because I am really interested in presenting information in creative and accessible ways.

