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Life in the Fishbowl

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Life in the Fishbowl

Abstract

I was never quite certain what went on in those offices behind the glass windows on the second floor of Musselman Library, but two weeks into my Fortenbaugh Music Librarian Internship I am beginning to get an idea. After talking with some of the staff that work in the fishbowl I have gotten a glimpse at some of the goings on behind the scenes of the librarian. If you've ever wondered how all these books and resources came to be or how in the world you are able to find a single thing in this place (maybe with some assistance), well, I can tell you it is not the work of little library fairies. [*excerpt*]

Keywords

Musselman Library, Gettysburg College, Fortenbaugh Internship, Music Intern

Disciplines

Collection Development and Management | Library and Information Science | Music

Comments

The Interns at Gettysburg College's Musselman Library captured their internship experiences since the spring of 2011. Over time the blog has featured Fortenbaugh, Smith, and Holley interns. They shared updates on semester long projects, responded to blogging prompts, and documented their individual intern experience.

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Life in the Fishbowl

January 28, 2016

By: Brittany Barry '17

I was never quite certain what went on in those offices behind the glass windows on the second floor of Musselman Library, but two weeks into my Fortenbaugh Music Librarian Internship I am beginning to get an idea. After talking with some of the staff that work in the fishbowl I have gotten a glimpse at some of the goings on behind the scenes of the librarian. If you've ever wondered how all these books and resources came to be or how in the world you are able to find a single thing in this place (maybe with some assistance), well, I can tell you it is not the work of little library fairies.

The staff working in technical services catalog and organize countless resources to make them accessible and able to be found. Many of them are also liaisons to different departments across campus to make sure each department has a collection of useful and pertinent resources and materials for the students and faculty in their programs. Maybe one or more of your past bio or living environment teachers/professors have mentioned that the mitochondria is the powerhouse of the cell. Well Tech Services is kinda like the powerhouse of the library. Without the fishbowl staff, Musselman Library would likely be a barren wasteland containing nothing but dysfunctional printers, a vending machine, and a pile of miscellaneous books that have nothing to do with that research paper due tomorrow that you've been putting off for weeks.

But why am I here? As the music library intern I'll be specifically focusing on music collections. So when you're on the third floor trying not to squish someone between the mobile shelving, look for me.

More to come on my experiences with music collections and cataloging. Until then, see you (from inside the fishbowl).

<http://blogging.musselmanlibrary.org/2016/01/>