

Law Librarianship

I am like yourself, learning as much as you can about a particular field of work. So far this is what I reckon the job is like. As a law librarian you may be responsible for a number of duties. This includes collections development, knowledge management, vendor negotiations, human resources and a research consultant. Unlike some other fields in librarianship where you may only be designated one or two specific roles, law librarianship is a dynamic and multi-faceted field.

The law librarians I have met have obtained their careers through various paths. Some have worked in law research before and others just come to it out of school. If you are interested in this field I suggest you find law interesting. Law librarians often have to cite and look up cases in different databases. Becoming familiar with CanLii for Canadian law is important. CanLii is a free resource which is funded by the Law Society. Our view in Canada is that law should be freely accessible and available to all people.

In the United States, it is a bit different. They do not have the same replica as CanLii which is used nationally in Canada. The vendors tend to think that they own the pagination of law documents so you have to pay to get the citation. Cornell University has a good United States law website and the Library of Congress is also another good place. Google Scholar is probably the closest you will find to free pagination in the United States. I have provided some useful cites, all with different merits.

The CanLii conference I attended was very interesting. It seems the field of law librarianship is a small one. People came from all over Canada and Michigan State. It was also the MichAll conference as well. I got to hear interesting stories from Detroit and Canadian judges on the issue of privacy in the courtroom. Americans think Canadians are obsessed about privacy.

Here are some useful links if you are interested in hearing more about the field of law librarianship.

Slaw.ca- society of law librarianship

CALL- Canadian association of law librarianship

CanLii.ca- Look up federal and provincial laws and case law. Some important cases included *Ch v. Law Society of Upper Canada*.

CLA- Criminal Lawyers Association

<http://conniecrosby.blogspot.com/> - this is if you wish to follow an actual law librarian and find out more about her law blog.

Nomus.ca - A law students attempt at a different Canadian version of CanLii. The search on this site is much more user friendly than CanLii but you might have to sift through a bit more.

- Westlaw.ca
- Thomason-Reuters
in the field.

These are two well known vendors

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/> - good cite for American law.

Oh and I cannot forget! SLA.ca