

When you last changed jobs, what surprised you most about your new job?

“I started my first full-time reference librarian position in August 2008. In the last five months I have been most surprised by my fellow librarians’ enthusiasm for and creativity in serving the law school community. I suppose I had previously thought that seasoned librarians eventually grow frustrated with opaque faculty requests and ill-conceived student research questions. I was very happy to learn that my colleagues have a strong sense of professionalism, along with a developed sense of humor, despite their combined years in providing sophisticated reference services in an increasingly-complex research environment.”

— **Lisa Junghahn**, *reference librarian*

“I last changed jobs 19 years ago when I took this county law librarian position fresh out of library school. What surprised me most was that no one else above me in the court organization—neither the judges nor court administrators—really had any idea of what I, or the law library in general, should be doing for the court. I was left totally to my own devices with absolutely no prior policies or management guidelines. I had to first figure out what I was supposed to do and then wrest those duties away from the people who were doing them by default. Marke and Sloane’s *Legal Research and Law Library Management* became my guide and mentor, and we started by writing a mission statement that grew into a policy manual. What still surprises me is my total autonomy to manage my public law library and my court department as I see fit.”

— **Lorelei A. Broskey**, *director of library information services at Lehigh County Law Library in Allentown, Pennsylvania*



Kerry A. Herrmann

“Two things come to mind. One, the volume of local practices and procedures to learn. Two, the number of differences in the nature of the physical material used in the legal field as compared to those in chemistry and engineering (i.e. pocket parts, pamphlets, etc.)”

— **Richard Todd**, *technical services librarian at the University of Tulsa College of Law Mabee Legal Information Center*

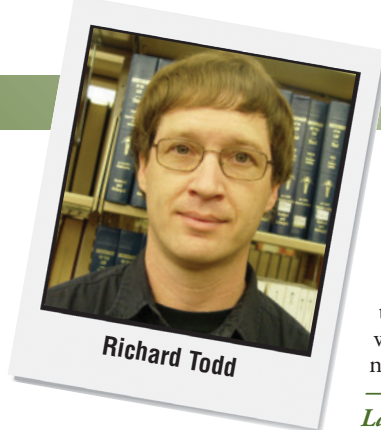
“When I last changed jobs, I realized how much I had learned in each librarian position I had previously held. I think in the law librarian field it’s essential to change jobs every few years. While this opinion may not sit well with employers, ultimately this does benefit organizations. Law librarians who do switch jobs tend to be more innovative, open to new ideas, and have a broader perspective on the most effective ways to provide services to patrons. I think a wide variety of experience in different law library settings—corporate, law school, etc.—can also be beneficial.

Each new job provides an opportunity for growth and further career development.”

— **Kerry A. Herrmann**, *reference librarian at Pepper Hamilton LLP in Philadelphia*

“It has been awhile since I last changed jobs, but the most surprising thing was how busy I was. The

firm had never had a librarian before I arrived, though it had had part-time library assistants. I was swapped from day one. I had always been busy at other jobs, but I really thought that starting at a place with no librarian would mean that I could build the level of work while I built the foundation of the library. No way. There was lots of clean up, and new projects just kept coming to my desk. It makes me wonder, who does library work



Richard Todd

(aside from filing and checking in the mail) when there is no librarian?”

— **Jaye A. H. Lapachet**, *manager of library services at*

Coblentz, Patch, Duffy & Bass LLP in San Francisco



Heidi W. Heller

“What surprised me most about my new job was what a good fit it was. I was concerned about moving from academia to the private sector, partly because I had a JD and knew that many (but by no means all) practicing lawyers were unaccustomed to law librarians with JDs. I also wondered if the constant emphasis on the bottom line would be a drawback. The lawyers, however, were extremely receptive to having a lawyer/librarian who chose librarianship over law. And the great result of having to be concerned with the bottom line is that performance standards are strict, which motivates and energizes people. I always loved being in academia and am surprised by how hospitable the law firm environment feels, too.

“Another pleasant surprise? How worn the books are.”

— **Heidi W. Heller**, *director of library services at Dilworth Paxson LLP in Philadelphia*

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