



INTERVIEW WITH AN IAMSLIC LIBRARIAN: Carolina Monti

SHARING EXPERIENCES & TRANSFERRING KNOWLEDGE



STUDIES

I studied at the National University of La Plata (UNLP), Argentina, I have the degrees of Librarian (2013) and Audiovisual Communication (2009). Now I'm finishing the Bachelor of Library and Information Science.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Library management; Social media; Digital libraries development, Information Architecture; Digitalization; Open Access; English Translations; Graphic Design; Video production; Edition; Photography

Why/When did you choose the Librarianship career?

When I was little I spend a lot of time in an Academic Library where my mother works and I always liked to help to organise the bookcase and that kind of stuff. Of course, then I realize that Library Science was much more than that and when I was finishing my degree on Audiovisual Communication I decided to continue my academic studies in this area.

Tell us an experience related to your profession:

I believe I have a short but varied experience in the profession: I started working 4 years ago with an internship in the Library of the Faculty of Computer Science of my university, there I worked in social networking and communication tasks, public attention, making user guides and specialized reference. Then, I got hired by the Professional Council of Surveying of Buenos Aires to design and create a thematic digital library about Surveying in Argentina. Nowadays, I'm working at the Institute of Limnology "Dr. Raúl A. Ringuelet" where I manage the library and also participate in extension activities for the science dissemination and the journal edition. Besides this job, I also participate with the career of Library Science with dissemination, communication and social networking.

What do you enjoy doing most in your work place?

I really like when researchers come to me because they need information for their researches, allowing me to learn something about what they're up to and searching for this information sometimes I get to far places and it's really comforting to find people who are pleased to share their work.

I also like that since I work here, I've been able to introduce some innovated projects for the library and the Institution always supported me. And finally, I also like that I started participating in other activities and decisions besides the library.

What do you dislike?

I dislike visualize every day, the unfair publishers policies that researchers have to abide by. I see this in how difficult it is sometimes in my country to have access to certain works that researchers need because publishers don't allow access without a -over the top- payment; and worse when the institution that funded those researches - and even the researchers - cannot access and/or share their own work for the same reasons.

What does it mean for you to belong to an association such as IAMSLIC?

When I started working here I found myself really lost, I came from Computer Science and Engineering and I didn't know anything about aquatic sciences and less about aquatic sciences libraries. I tried to look up on the internet some other similar libraries in my country to ask some things about their work, that's how I met the INIDEP librarians and they told me about IAMSLIC. Searching the web of the association I found a lot of different libraries around the world and it was great. I think it is really important for specific libraries to generate and be part of a network to empower their work.

Then, when they accepted my sponsored application I start using the Search of the Union List. It's a lifesaver when I have to find something that's seems to be nowhere else. I'm really thankful for being invited to be part of it.

How would you describe a "good professional librarian"?

I think a good professional librarian is someone who realizes how versatile and multidisciplinary our career can be. A good professional librarian is an Information manager, and today information is everywhere (and no, not only in books). About this topic, I always like to add a comment which the author Neil Gaiman did in his blog about librarians these days:

"Let's see... we're entering an age of too much information, in which knowledge and information retrieval and navigation are going to be some of the most important skills anyone can possibly possess. You are being trained in library science, which is knowledge and information categorization, management and retrieval. And someone wants to know if your job is going to be extinct because we may not have as many places with lots of paper books any longer? I think libraries are more vital now than they have ever been. And whatever form books (and other information) take in the centuries and millennia to come, we will always need librarians." <http://neil-gaiman.tumblr.com/>

Your favourite book or author is:

It's impossible for me to name just one favourite author or book. But I think I could say that I like to read novels and short stories, especially of young Argentineans authors, and some other international authors of the now called AltLit (alternative literature). I also love to read philosophy.

What is your great passion?

Same problem here. I don't think it is possible for me to say that I have just one and "great" passion or at least I can't be certain about that right now. I know that I really like doing some stuff, such as learn or travel.

Where can we learn more about you and your professional and/or social activities (for example: FB, OceanPortal, ResearchGate, etc)?

You can find me on twitter @mirukux (social) and on Linkedin /carolinamonti (professional)