

**From discord to discourse: Same library, different roles  
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**Kasey (Mallen) Whalley (K.W.)**

Hi, I'm Kasey and I'm hear with Gouthami Vigneswaran, a liaison library we shared in college. Hi, Gouthami, how are you?

**Gouthami Vigneswaran (G.V.)**

Hello, I'm good. How are you?

**K.W.**

I'm good, thank you. We're going to be talking about moving positions or taking on new roles in the same company. Um, I just wanted to know how long have you been in a college library setting and what kind of positions have you held before?

**G.V.**

So, with the college, I've been there for about six years and before I started at the college, I worked part-time at an elementary private school in Toronto. And before, I held student page positions in a library while I was studying.

**K.W.**

Have you held other positions in the college than the liaison librarian position you have now?

**G.V.**

Yes, I had to actually count today. I've held exactly six positions in this current college. I started as a part-time technician and then I moved to a full-time technician role in Technical Services and then move, like a secondment, to a faculty librarian position. And then I hopped around several contracts and then now I'm officially in my current role for the past three years.

**K.W.**

And has this work included both frontline work, classroom work and office work?

**G.V.**

It's been a good mix of all three. So, when I first started full-time in the technician role, it was mostly in Technical Services so it was entirely office work so all the back-end work, processing, purchasing, that sort of thing. And then throughout all the other contract. In my current role, I've had a good mix of classroom work as well as frontline work and liaison collections.

**K.W.**

What are some of the benefits to moving positions within library work? Either through lateral moves, through reassignments, promotions, or secondments, some of which you've experienced.

**G.V.**

I think it's really beneficial because you get to see all the different aspects of the library and there quite a bit, It's not just the technical and public. You get to see a lot of the different areas and then also get to participate in different parts of the process. So, for example, starting in Technical Services, I saw a lot of the ordering side, which was kind of isolated from the front-end, the user experience side. And then now in my current role, I kind of see the opposite end of it, so it's nice to see that variety. Kind of like from start to finish, you get to see the whole process. That's been interesting.

**K.W.**

How have you adapted to different roles within the same company, or some of the things that you've learned to do to adapt to a new role?

**G.V.**

So, I think it's been an interesting experience, throughout. I try to keep on top of any professional development opportunities that I get. I try to do that as a proactive process. So whatever role I've been in, I've tried to do some sort of training or gone to some conference related in that area. And it's been very interesting because I've held so many different types of positions, that I've gotten to see different kinds of training but also different kinds of conferences.

So, for example, when I started in Technical Services, I did a lot of technical services related to work and a lot of that back end. And when I started in the liaison side, it's all classroom work or interacting with users, especially in a classroom setting, so that was really interesting. The training that I got to do with that was very different from sitting down and learning to catalogue.

**K.W.**

Did you find that there were some similarities across both?

**G.V.**

No matter what the position was and what the conference was, since it was library environment, library colleagues, whatever the library happened to be, there was always a sense of community and sharing of knowledge in that environment. That was definitely a similarity across the board.

**K.W.**

When moving positions in the same company, what some quick advice you'd give to other library workers?

**G.V.**

I would say, try to stay open to opportunities because when I started in that first technician role, I couldn't really think that I would end up in my current role and it's way better than I could have imagined. And that's because I really took every opportunity that came my way, even though it was kind of scary at the time. I had to kind of fail things, and really take on things that I never really imagined myself doing and I'm really happy that I did.

**K.W.**

What role do you think the parent organization has when choosing to move positions within a library.

**G.V.**

Well I think that when you enjoy working in that company or library and especially when the organization's goals are clear and something you believe in yourself. Awesome. Thank you for speaking to me and the OLA. That was great.

**K.W.**

Thank you.