

It's easy to feel lost or overlooked at the University of Utah. In fact, it's easy to feel lost or overlooked as a college student in general. At this stage in my and so many of my peers' lives, one is expected to forge an identity socially and academically. It is a tall order for a twenty-something, especially on a campus flooded with students, all with diverse interests and preoccupations. I have been lucky enough to find in the Marriott Library a place in which I could forge such an identity for myself.

On one of my early days in the Rare Books Division, the Assistant Rare Books Librarian was giving me an orientation and, when before handing me an old, leather-bound monograph, she put her nose close to one of the pages and said, without shame, "I like to smell them."

I smiled because, of course, I too like the smell of old books. It comes with the territory, just like reading glasses, cardigans, and a whole manner of things that we bookish people tend to like. Being surrounded by like-minded people has given me an opportunity to cultivate my interests as well as my personality.

Working at the Marriott Library has not only given me a sense of belonging on campus, but also glimpse into what I hope will become my future. As I said, I've (almost) always loved books, but I never knew I could make a career out of it. Like most college students, I've switched majors a few times, and my career path has meandered in several directions, changing every time I found myself bored in classes or at jobs.

When I applied to work in the Rare Books department in July, my friends and I called the position "the dream job." I worried, though, that I would find myself ill-suited for the position, or that my interest would quickly wane. I was, of course, entirely wrong. Instead, my loves of literature and history have only grown. I'm not exaggerating when I say that, every day, I become more dedicated to pursuing a degree and a career in library science.

There's an incredibly cliché and possibly misattributed quote, disputably written by Harvey MacKay that reads, "Find something you love to do, and you'll never work a day in your life." This quote is not incredibly enlightening, nor original. It is saccharine, overused, and entirely accurate. Working in the Rare Books Division of the Marriott Library is something I love to do. I've learned that this is something I *want*. Being a librarian is something I could do for the rest of my life. To know something like I know this with such certainty at the age of twenty is rare indeed.