

I have had many experiences throughout my life that have only served to strengthen my desire to succeed at my goal of becoming a library professional. After working full-time for three years as a secretary for the Biology Department at the University of Vermont, and realizing that my dreams of becoming a librarian were getting no closer, I decided to give school another final chance. Although I did enjoy, but somewhat dread, the “How do I get this snake out of my basement” phone calls!

I moved to North Carolina, established residency, and was accepted to Western Carolina University (WCU). Although I had to pay for my college education myself, WCU allowed me to achieved the academic success I knew I was capable of achieving.

My professional goals encompass two main areas. My first love is children’s literature and being able to help integrate that literature into the curriculum. Whether in the schools or in a public library, showing children the joy of reading books and of being able to escape to other worlds would be a career I would cherish and of which I would never grow tired. However, the longer I spend in the academic community the more I am drawn to the possibilities of becoming a reference librarian at a college or university. I am attracted to the idea of working with faculty members in a specific discipline, helping with research, and teaching students how to be successful in their own research projects. Truthfully, the process of gathering the data and conducting the research has always been at least as appealing (if not more so) to me than actually applying the data.

I relish the opportunity to attend one of the highest ranked schools in the nation for library science, and have it be in my home state. I have work with several alumni from your institution and my conversations with them have done nothing but make me even more excited to attend your university and be a part of this spectacular program. I welcome the opportunity to talk with you further about what my unique experiences and talents can bring to your institution. I look forward to the day when I can provide assistance other than snake removal – although I recognize that even that might be part of my duties as a librarian.