



Who are you, where are you based and what do you do?

Linda Coombs, Library and Learning Resources Manager at Bucks New Uni. Bucks New Uni is a small university based at High Wycombe with campuses at Aylesbury and Uxbridge. Bucks was awarded University College status in 1999, following a series of mergers of local art and technology colleges. We have around 10,000 students studying mostly vocational or practical courses, some highlights include commercial pilot training, degrees in policing and thousands of student nurses. I am mainly based at the High Wycombe campus supporting the library, but I also manage some other areas such as timetabling which has been a big learning curve for me.

What do you most enjoy about your job?

The thing that brings me most joy in my work is seeing colleagues develop their skills and work together to solve problems. Lots of the team are in new roles so they're learning about their new responsibilities as well as providing library services in the middle of a pandemic. Their support for each other and openness to new things makes me smile everyday.

What motivates you in your work?

Small, simple changes or little bits of support can make a huge difference to our students, for example waiving small fines can reduce anxiety and guilt students feel about using library resources. As I move into library management, I can start to make bigger changes such as reducing fines altogether which could have a great impact on student experiences of the library. I think most people want to help people in their work and I'm glad that I've found my niche where I can do that.

How can/has the M25 Consortium supported you in your career?

It's good to be part of a community of libraries and librarians I can call on for advice and training when I or my team need it. As a small part of a larger institution it can be difficult to get understanding of the library and its needs so with the M25 consortium I know that I have backup from people who 'get' me.

What would it surprise people to know about you?

I spend my evenings buying, completing and selling jigsaws. I use eBay to buy and sell the jigsaws so I don't fill the house with them and the only cost to me is the postage, occasionally they don't have all the pieces but I don't mind that too much – I'm not a perfectionist.

Complete the sentence: If I wasn't working in a library I would be a museum curator **because...** I love the idea of telling stories through objects and bringing different worlds to life. I studied the Romans at undergraduate and was totally absorbed by their culture, language and religion, I loved it!