



LIBRARY PEOPLE

FROM THE OPENING OF THE MECHANICS INSTITUTE, LIBRARY STAFF HAVE REFLECTED THE COMMUNITY THEY SERVE AND HAVE BEEN AS DIVERSE AS THEIR CUSTOMERS.



Although for a long time only males were appointed to the position of City Librarian, female library staff have supported library services since the early 1900s. Respectable dress and early forerunners of the now famous smocks were worn by the female staff, while male librarians wore the suit and tie of a "professional man". As times changed, so did hemlines, and as other work places became more informal in their dress, so did libraries.

The library welcomes customers from all walks of life, and librarians provide all sorts of information, from help with technology to suggesting a great read.

These days librarians don't wear smocks and say 'shush' but they do keep their customers connected with the world, just as they have been doing since 1859.

