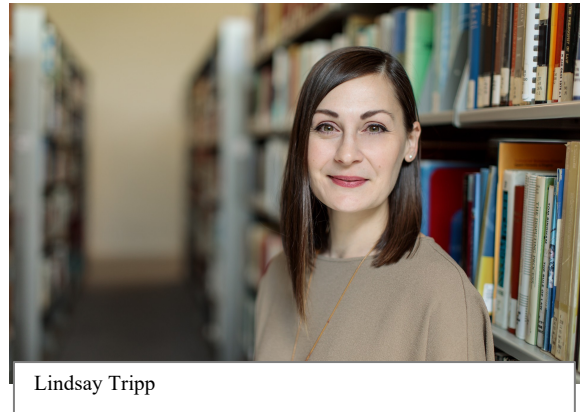


Where Can UVic English Take You? An Interview with Lindsay Tripp (BA 2006)

What is your job?

I'm a reference and instruction librarian at snəwəyət̓ leləm Langara College. I serve as the library's liaison to six departments on campus, including Indigenous Education & Services, Aboriginal Studies, Canadian Studies, Classical Studies, History, and LEAP, Langara's intensive EAL program. I also serve as the college's copyright specialist and support open education initiatives.



What led you to pursue an interest in library studies?

I had the good fortune to work as Dr. Mary Elizabeth Leighton's research assistant during the last year of my studies. I funded my bachelor's degree through part-time jobs and student loans. As such, I was interested in pursuing a graduate program that would equip me with job-ready skills. Dr. Leighton suggested UBC's Master of Library and Information Studies (MLIS) program, and I applied after a two-year sojourn teaching English in Japan. Librarianship appealed to my passion for public service, academic research, and education.

What does a typical professional day look like for you?

Community college librarians tend to wear many hats, so no two days look the same! I deliver copyright sessions and research workshops for courses in my liaison areas, staff the library's virtual and in-person reference desks, provide students with one-on-one research consultations, respond to copyright inquiries from members of the college community, manage open education projects, prepare pieces for the library and college newsletters, and participate in professional association activities.

What's your favourite part of your work?

As a first-generation university graduate, I'm passionate about creating accessible pathways to higher education. My mother dropped out of school in ninth grade after a series of negative experiences in the public education system, so it's a part of my work that hits close to home. As lead for the college's open education committee and community of practice, I facilitate initiatives that promote affordable and high-quality education for all. It's a privilege to have a job that fills your cup and I'm grateful to UVic English for helping me find my way here.

How did UVic English help prepare you for this work?

UVic English taught me to read closely, think critically, and communicate complex ideas clearly and concisely. These are essential skills for a post-secondary copyright specialist, whose primary responsibility is translating often opaque copyright law into accessible terms for members of the

campus community.

My English coursework also helped me cultivate a strong narrative voice. A former colleague, who was not quick with praise, once shared that he could tell when I authored a piece for the college newsletter before seeing my name (“in a good way,” he quickly added). This remains one of the greatest compliments I’ve ever received. In a recent blog post, author Brandon Stanton wrote that “a strong voice is one of the writer’s greatest tools”; it’s “how the person uses language . . . Those combinations of words that belong only to them.” As an undergraduate student, I couldn’t have predicted how well this would serve me in my future career.

I’ll always feel indebted to UVic English for helping me find a job I love and equipping me with the skills I need to do it well.