

Meet our staff! This month, we are profiling Baker & Taylor's Katie LaMantia, Collection Development Librarian in our McHenry, IL office. She is from Schaumburg, IL and was a Teen Advisory Board member turned Teen Librarian there before coming to Baker & Taylor. Here we go!

Q. Hi Katie. First off, tell us a little bit about what your job role entails at Baker & Taylor.

As a Collection Development Librarian, I have the joy and privilege of helping libraries curate their collections for new libraries or branches, and making their lives easier with customized, selection lists for every day collection development. It is fascinating to help librarians all over the country and learn about their communities and collections.



Q. What inspired you to be a librarian?

I was involved with my local public library as a Teen Advisory Board member. I had a wonderful Teen Librarian who really encouraged us to be involved in the library and allowed us to spearhead programs that we were passionate about. She later became my mentor once I began the process of getting my MLIS and just last year she officiated my wedding! Librarianship to me is all about the connections you make with your customers whether that's through programming, service, or books.

Q. How did you get involved with writing for ALA publications?

My co-workers and I had been working on a programing initiative to reach the ever-elusive 20s-30s demographic and knew it was a growing topic with limited resources available. We wanted to share our ideas and experiences with the wider library world through publications. ALA has been great to work with and always encourages our writing.

Q. We've noticed you on several panels with ALA as well. Do you have a favorite?

That's a tough question! Each presentation/panel always brings about interesting topics and engaging discussions from attendees. However, presenting about how to host a Comic Con does hold a special place in my heart since I am a bit of a fangirl.

Q. Any favorite reads you'd like to tell us about? And what are you reading now?

I am currently reading *Loki* by Mackenzi Lee (again, fangirl here) and *Evvie Drake Starts Over* by Linda Holmes. One of my favorite books is *Carry On* by Rainbow Rowell and I'm looking forward to *Wayward Son*. I am



always up for a great YA novel or thriller where I can't see the twists coming.

Q. And finally, if you were to choose an adventure for our favorite furry mascots, Baker and Taylor, what might that be?

I really don't have an answer for this, besides napping 18 hours/day which sounds pretty ideal right now. 😊

Stay tuned for future Meet the Staff pieces here, and if there's anyone you'd like to see gracing the pages of the CATS Meow, let us know at CATS@baker-taylor.com. We hope you enjoy. -

Baker & Taylor CATS