

7-1-2013

## My Own Private Library: A Peek Inside the Personal Library of a Librarian

Yadira V. Payne

Woodworth Consolidated Library, Fort Gordon, GA, [yadira.v.payne.naf@mail.mil](mailto:yadira.v.payne.naf@mail.mil)

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/glq>

 Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Payne, Yadira V. (2013) "My Own Private Library: A Peek Inside the Personal Library of a Librarian," *Georgia Library Quarterly*: Vol. 50: Iss. 3, Article 8.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/glq/vol50/iss3/8>

This Columns is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@Kennesaw State University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Georgia Library Quarterly by an authorized editor of DigitalCommons@Kennesaw State University. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@kennesaw.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@kennesaw.edu).

# My Own PRIVATE LIBRARY

By Yadira Payne

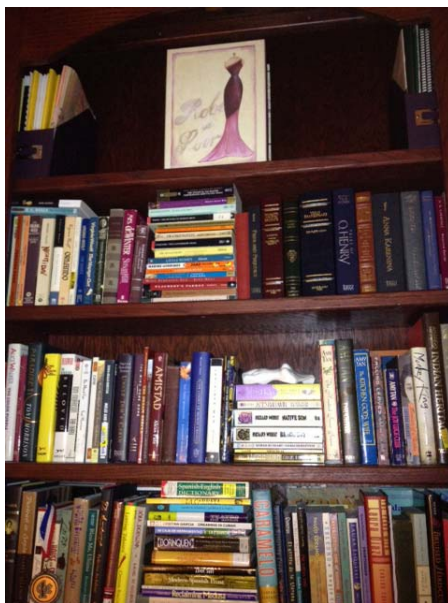
I am an army brat. There, I've said it. The childhood of an army brat is full of adventure as one hops from one country to the next. Raised overseas, there weren't many constants in my life. I lived in different countries, with different cultures, languages, addresses, and friends. Every military installation had a library, which became my haven. Libraries were, and still are, like family welcoming me home.

Libraries represent life, knowledge, and adventure. Private libraries, however, reflect their owner. I always enjoy snooping around in the libraries of friends, family, and casual acquaintances. It is like falling down the rabbit hole, taking tea with the Mad Hatter, and following the path from one adventure to the other, taking a peek into their reality or their dreams. I invite you to fall down the rabbit hole and take a peek into my personal library.

As far back as I can recall I have collected books. To tell the truth, I organized, mended, and lent them out as well. Some of my first books were the Golden Books and *Grimm's Fairy Tales*. Along with watching Sesame Street, they helped me learn English. I looked forward to the Scholastic Book Fairs as though I were going to the sweets shop. I still have a few books from back then. My favorite of these is *The Girl with the Silver Eyes* by Willo Davis Roberts that I purchased in third grade while at Amelia Earhart Intermediate School in Okinawa, Japan.

Much to my husband's bemusement, I have books shelved throughout the house. Through the years he had hoped that I would rid myself of them. He

has given up that quest and now has a small collection of his own. I have a couple of boxes of my childhood books in the utility closet in the garage. My cookbooks are logically on a shelf in the kitchen pantry. Beside the dining room fireplace are a few contemporary light reads.



Books I'm currently reading are in the living room, the family room, and in the downstairs sunroom. They are Ransom Riggs' *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*, Scott Westerfeld's *Uglies* Series, Jacqueline Winspear's *An Elegy for Eddie*, and a biography on Coco Chanel. I don't know what these titles may say about me other than I have diverse interests and possibly lack focus. Some of the titles I have very recently completed reading are Gail Carriger's first title in the *Finishing School Series*, *Etiquette & Espionage*. It was an

awesome steampunk yarn. I was very impressed by Ally Condie's *Matched* Series. This was my first young adult dystopian series, so I didn't know what to expect. Jay Asher's *Thirteen Reasons Why* was impossible to put down. It was a compelling eulogy of a sad teen girl. I was disappointed to have read Gillian Flynn's *Gone Girl*. While well written, it was not my type of story.

Back onto the tour. In half of my formal study, you can find reference material on culture, language, history, anthropology, sociology, theology, and feminist studies, as well as biographies. In the other half, I have art books, classic literature, and titles written by authors of varied ethnicities. I will admit that I enjoy reading Isabel Allende's books in both Spanish and English. I love re-reading Arthur Golden's *Memoirs of a Geisha*, Toni Morrison's

*Beloved*, and biographies on Katherine Hepburn and Charles Chaplin. The oldest book in my collection is kept in the study. I found a 1938 first edition hardback copy of Daphne du Maurier's gothic novel *Rebecca*. You may be surprised to know that I purchased it at a Friends of the Library book sale for only \$1.00!

The second floor has bookshelves on the landing and in every room. One bedroom contains contemporary novels, young adult titles, and inspirational books. Another bedroom houses mathematics, physics, science fiction, and graphic novels. In the landing is a bookshelf for my Native American authors such as Louise Erdrich and N. Scott Momaday. The other bookcase in the landing is where I keep all my mystery novels. They're mainly Agatha Christie and Jacqueline Winspear. I am not into thrillers, but I can't get enough of well written mysteries. I have Winspear's entire Maisie Dobbs series.

Professional textbooks, health, nutrition, crafts, and my movie collection are on the third floor. I must

confess that I have not read any of my library school texts since I graduated, save for one. I highly recommend *Sun Tzu: The Art of War for Managers* by Gerald Michaelson. While not directly written for librarians, it is applicable for library managers and directors.

I mentioned earlier that my husband was a bit chagrined by my book collection. It is only equaled by our dvd collection. We are nearing 2,500 titles ranging from 1927's *Metropolis* by Fritz Lang to current films. I recently purchased BBC's *Sherlock*, seasons 1 and 2.

So, there you have it, a broad peek into my personal library. Did it tell you anything about me? Or, do you feel as though you have fallen down the rabbit hole and things are "curiouser and curiouser"? I hope I have mentioned a few authors or titles that may strike your interest. I know I am always on the lookout for more titles.

*Yadira V. Payne is Acting Library Director at Woodworth Consolidated Library, Fort Gordon, GA*