Mark Osterfield

Worker b 1963

Eclectic career. Studied English at Oxford, worked in mental health, had a bit of a breakdown. Began working in Kilburn children's library in 1990 and did a fine arts degree. 1993-94 - was Children Library Head at Swiss and then operations manager for the refurbishment in the early 2000s. Loved the building having moved from the smallest to the largest library in Camden. Was interested in basil Spence - his precision. Got rid of the lovely Basil Spence furniture with the refurb. Move away from more trad libraries, some older librarians not happy. Tensions. As a gay man are engaged in politics. Wanted to make the space more open and welcoming to attract young people - real mix of library users. Feels very strongly about libraries and the library service as a civic space - won employee of the year 2003!