

Featured Alumni - Nikki Ferraiolo (PLC '03)

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*Program Officer for Scholarly Resources
Council on Library and Information Resources*

Nikki's passion for research, education, and policy has taken her across the globe. As a firm believer that history is the best way to study and understand individuals, she finally decided to major in it, after three separate degree changes. After Nikki graduated from CU Boulder with a B.A. in History and a minor in French, she moved to French Guiana to teach English. From there she transitioned to a position in the Ministry of Education's regional office, teaching in New York and London. After completing her Master's Degree in International History through Columbia University and the London School of Economics,

Nikki received a 4-month research fellowship that took her to the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and Puerto Rico. Following her research, Nikki moved back to New York and eventually took a job in Washington, DC where she now works.

Nikki explains that PLC always pushed her beyond her limits and kept her striving for more. She is still connected with a number of PLCers and says that the program's worldwide network has helped her in her career. Not only is she still friends with PLCers who live in the DC area, but she even had a few in attendance at her wedding this year. Nikki believes PLC not only helped her build a solid resume, but through the walkabout experience it also handed her the first of many research jobs.

Nikki currently works as a Program Officer for Scholarly Resources for CLIR (Council on Library and Information Resources). She loves her job, and one of her favorite parts is the ability to digitize entire libraries, allowing them to be viewed all over the world. Nikki feels strongly about open access and ensuring that anyone is able to utilize archives at little to no cost, providing the opportunity to do research and crosscheck others' work. Similarly, Nikki loves being able to uncover hidden archives; "*The historian in me loves getting to see hidden collections before others know they're even out there.*" Nikki's employer provides many grants and fellowships, and just last year they funded a project at CU Boulder that worked to digitize information concerning climate change.

Beyond her career, Nikki loves learning new languages, getting creative with art projects, and she is currently learning how to play the piano. Though she one day hopes to work abroad again, she is quite content with her current role. Nikki continues to stay connected in the PLC network, and as a new alumni mentor for the program, she is excited to share her knowledge and expertise with current students.
