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## Profile-Brooke Billman

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reference to be of value to upper division high school students as well as undergraduates. Sidebars entitled "Historical Context" and "Myth into Art" are interspersed when relevant and each entry has a useful bibliography.

**Critical Survey of Mythology and Folklore: Love, Sexuality, and Desire** is a useful and accessible reference that should have wide appeal and could easily find a home in high school, public, and undergraduate libraries. As is the case with all **Salem** reference works it is available online through **Salem's** online platform, **Salem Literature**, with a single purchase of the printed set. Given this option, some libraries may want to place the print set in circulation while relying on the online version for reference.

One might wonder if a topic like the White House staff was worthy of the effort required in producing a serious reference work. Upon examining the **CQ Press Guide to the White House Staff** (2013, 978-1-6042-6604-7, \$160) one would have to answer in the affirmative. Prior to **FDR**, a small professional staff of administrative assistants was available to the President to assist him with basic managerial tasks. But with the passage of the **Reorganization Act of 1939** creating the Executive Office of the President, the White House staff started to grow exponentially and now includes hundreds of highly trained specialists. Authored by **Shirley Anne Warshaw**, this reference carefully traces the history, evolution, and growing influence of the White House Staff, and throws light on the influential role it performs as part of the Executive Branch of government.

The bulk of the **Guide to the White House Staff** provides researchers with an informed history of the modern White House staff including chapters on the development of its operation as well as the evolution of key policymaking units. However, a discussion of the formative years, when little money or attention was paid to Presidential staff needs, occupies the first section of the book and lays the ground work for what follows. The overall result is a thorough and comprehensive treatment of the numerous transitions and changes that the White House staff has undergone as well as a discussion of its growing influence and responsibilities. The text is complemented by photos, tables, charts, lists, and informative sidebars that are also visually appealing. An appendix that provides a year-by-year list of the names of all White House staff and their positions for each administration since **FDR** makes clear the growing number of staff in successive administrations.

In typical **CQ Press** fashion, the **Guide to the White House Staff** is fact-filled, even-handed, and exhaustive. Value-added features are impressive with well-chosen illustrations enriching the historical coverage offered by the narrative text. In this reference, **Ms. Warshaw** makes it clear that the White House Staff

## against the grain people profile

### Brooke Billman

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**BORN AND LIVED:** I was born in Ohio but have also lived in six states and one other country.

**PROFESSIONAL CAREER AND ACTIVITIES:** In my current position as the Arizona Health Information Network (AZHIN) Librarian, I play a key role in managing a non-profit health information resources consortium that spans the state of Arizona and has 23 hospital and academic members. As the only full-time employee that serves this organization, I have many roles which include managing electronic resources, providing training to librarians and their users, and working collaboratively with librarians and university employees on a range of projects and committees.

I am very involved in **MLA** in a variety of sections including collection development, research, and leadership.

**FAMILY:** Most of my family lives in Ohio but a few of us have managed to escape the cold winters!

**IN MY SPARE TIME:** I like to stay active by running, doing yoga, and riding my bike to work. I also enjoy sewing, reading, and traveling.

**PHILOSOPHY:** If you can't get out of it, get into it.

**MOST MEMORABLE CAREER ACHIEVEMENT:** As someone who hasn't been in the field for an extended amount of time, I feel I have my most memorable achievements ahead of me. Until then, I cherish the appreciation that clients extend when I meet their needs.

**HOW/WHERE I SEE THE INDUSTRY IN FIVE YEARS:** This is a very "big" question and I could write so much about this!

I see librarians and libraries shifting their focus even more to be at their users' fingertips. Instead of just making resources available anytime and anywhere, I think information professionals need to move into roles that are more visible and to think of themselves as an integral part of their institution's mission. Instead of providing services when approached, we should be working to ingrain ourselves into the fabric of the culture. There's a large focus on liaison and embedded librarians, but I feel that "moving out of the library" in one way or another is an option for most information professionals. Especially with the trend of rethinking library as space and with many librarians' physical space being downsized, we need to focus on being visible and on providing cutting edge, as well as time-tested, services to position ourselves in a place where our value is not questioned.

We know how amazing we are and so should others! 🐾



has become an integral part of the Executive Branch and its function, fulfilling more than a managerial role. It is obvious that the White House staff has a major influence on policy as specialized staff has been added routinely to help address new issues. **Ms. Warshaw** also includes a telling final chapter that covers the "career paths for White House staff after leaving office" which provides biographical data showing many of them gaining influential positions in the private sector.

Academic and large public libraries where there is an active interest in the politics and the function of American government will want to give this work serious consideration. As noted in the preface, it can easily be viewed as a companion to the fifth edition of the **CQ Press Guide to the Presidency and the Executive Branch** (2012, 978-1-6087-1906-8, \$425).

(Both these **CQ Press** titles are available online via **SAGE Knowledge** at <http://knowledge.sagepub.com>.)

### Extra Servings

**Oxford University Press** is planning the release of a major multivolume music reference work in August of 2103.

The second edition of **The Grove Dictionary of American Music** (9780195314281, \$1,195) is in the works and "will be the largest, most comprehensive reference publication on American Music. Twenty-five years ago, the four volumes of the first edition of the dictionary initiated a great expansion in American music scholarship.

*continued on page 41*