



#### WILLY DEBACKER, GOTYE / LIBRARY GUY

**One of my first jobs was in customer service at the local library. I'd check books in, check books out and shelve books. I dealt with lots of books, but also lots of lovely people, on both sides of the counter. It was generally a quiet working environment (but you have to watch the retirement-home people y'know – sneaky beggars!).**

I like books. And it would be nice if the common misconception that working at a library allows you time to sit around and read were true. But I found that any spare time from book-processing activities at the library would be filled with whatever I could fit in musically. It was quite hard seeing a lot of good titles come through and not having the time to read them.

I worked there for two years in my 20s, so I do know a few people from then, but I've since moved to a different neighbourhood and this music caper can keep one so busy.

The best part of the job was access to great books, music and films. The people were nice people, supportive and generally like-minded. I got good money and a pigeonhole made of very nice wood.

I was so good at my job I didn't get fired. They also gave me a name badge with my name spelt correctly, surely the sign of a favoured employee. If my colleagues had to describe me at the time they'd probably say, "Shadow in the seven hundred and eighties" – that's Dewey Decimal system-speak for "slacking off in the music section" *Gotye's new album of remixes, Mixed Blood, is out now.*