

This is a generalized memory from my experiences during the month of April 2020. I was working for the Washington County Library System in Utah. At the time I was working in the Springdale Branch, working part-time with circulation, Children's, and MakerSpace duties. The reaction to the spread of Covid-19 was initially very strong. Many public institutions, including the library system where I was working shut down for the month. In order to allow the employees to keep working while still benefiting the library system, every branch began a massive effort to inventory all of our material and clean all of our shelves. I was grateful to still have work at a time when many people lost their jobs and admittedly it was sometimes a relief to not have to deal with the public, but I still found the work this month to be horribly monotonous. I am glad that it was only a temporary situation. Every day I would go to work and spend the entire day scanning books, cleaning shelves, and organizing. Ironically, it usually felt busier than when the library was open.

The brightest aspect of this work for me was that while I was working, I was able to listen to audiobooks, something I previously had not been able to do because I had to be "available to the public." I finished 10 audiobooks that month, including some that were quite long and some that were audio lectures through the Great Courses. I normally only finish about 4 or 5 books a month. I listened to all of these through the library's digital resources with Overdrive and Libby. It was nice to be able to have more time to listen and learn at work and kept me entertained during the monotony of inventory.

From a sensory perspective, my memories of this time are the sounds of audiobook narrators talking at 1.5 to 1.75 times speed, the smells of books and cleaning spray, the feel of paper towels, opening and closing books, and the dust on the tops of shelves. I do have fond memories of the feel of the shade and grass while reading and eating in the park during my lunch

break in the park next to the library. It was always very quiet during that month. I could hear an occasional car, but usually just the wind and birds. The library reopened in stages beginning the next month and only a couple months later in June of that year I began working at a larger library in St. George, Utah in a full-time reference position.