

3A—Re-theorizing the Library #1

Vampire Slayers, Zombies, and Cyborgs: The Librarian and Rhetorics of the Posthuman

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This paper explores the idea of the technological embodiment of the posthuman librarian and how the profession, being tightly bound together with the material nature of technology and communication systems, is driven by technology itself. This paper uses the work of Kittler, Hayles, and other critical theorists as a means to frame the representations of libraries and librarians, and, from popular culture, to demonstrate how the material nature of information systems has been imprinted on the profession, where the consequences of the feminization, bureaucratization, and standardization of the profession in the 19th century continue to be played out, giving us the choice between vampire slayer, zombie, or cyborg.