Career Profile: Library and Information Sciences

Compiled by Career Services at the University of Wisconsin Green Bay

Librarians……….They're NOT what you think!
Today's librarians are a fascinating and diverse group of people working at a broad range of jobs in public, academic and institutional settings. Using cutting-edge technology and extensive data bases, many of today's librarians are the ultimate search engines for clients who range from research scientists to the general public. Others produce Web sites that bring around-the-clock library services to patrons with home or office computers.

The American Library Association (ALA) has a comprehensive website with resources to help students explore the field of Library Science. You will also find helpful information in the Occupational Outlook Handbook that outlines information about Librarians and related careers including the Nature of the Work, Training & Qualifications, and Salary Ranges.

Scholarships:
The American Library Association (ALA) awards scholarships towards education in the field of Library Science. For more information and application instructions, view http://www.ala.org/educationcareers/scholarships.

The Wisconsin Library Association (WLA) also offers scholarship opportunities to students continuing their education as well as to librarians currently employed in the field. View the following site for more information: http://wla.wisconsinlibraries.org/awards-scholarships/

Graduate Study:
Whether you need a graduate degree will depend upon factors such as the type of position to which you are applying, state library requirements, and the size of the library. If your desire is to attend graduate school, be certain to choose a program that is accredited by the ALA. The ALA maintains a list of accredited graduate programs in library and information studies on their website.

Salary, Benefits and the Job Market:
Do you want your future career to have great pay and benefits as well as be

- Dynamic
- Rewarding
- Cutting-edge
- Challenging
- Surprising
- And most of all…FUN!

If so, consider becoming a leader in the information age! The current job market is strong. Library school placement centers report that 90 percent of their graduates have jobs within six months after graduation. Technology skills are in high demand, as are candidates who bring diversity, energy, and other outside job skills to the workplace!

According to the Occupational Outlook Handbook (OOH) compiled by the U.S. Department of Labor, the median pay for Librarians was $58,520 per year (*May 2017*). View the Librarian profile in the OOH to see differences among industries.

Career Options and Industries:

Career possibilities include

- Academic Librarian
- Corporate Librarian
- Government Documents Librarian
- Cyberlibrarian
- Information Architect

- Information Broker
- K-12 Librarian
- Law Librarian
- Medical Librarian
- Public Librarian

Other career possibilities include:

- Information consultant
- Art & Architecture Librarian
- Science & Engineering Librarian
- Patent Searcher
- Serials Librarian

- Rare Book Cataloger
- Systems Manager
- Archivist
- Acquisitions Librarian
- Head of Collections

…and many more!

Remember-- This list is just a small sampling of the professions that are available.

Industries in which people in this occupation are employed include:

- General Medical and Surgical Hospitals
- Elementary and Secondary Schools
- Colleges, Universities, Technical and Professional Schools
- Libraries
- Religious Organizations
- Legislative Bodies
- Legal Counsel and Prosecution
- Administration of Public Health Programs
- Land, Mineral, Wildlife, and Forest Conservation
- Space Research and Technology

What else can you do with a library and information science degree?

A Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) degree prepares students for library work, but some graduates use their education in non-library settings. MLIS graduates working outside the library setting include:

- Book publishing workers use their knowledge of books to choose and edit manuscripts
- Chief information officers decide which information technology a business needs and how employees will share information
- Content managers find and organize material for online communities
- Database administrators organize, update, and store data using extensive programming skills
- Information brokers conduct research for people who contract for it
- Salespersons sell software and other products to libraries
- Taxonomists work for data processing and e-commerce companies by classifying information about putting it in appropriate categories
- Webmasters design, maintain, and program websites

Want MORE information? The best place for information about library careers is the ALA website at www.ala.org.