

Specialization in Academic Libraries (MSLS)

Librarians in small academic libraries are often generalists and perform many types of tasks. In larger academic libraries, most librarians are more specialized and spend most of their time working in one area. Job titles include: user experience librarian, digital scholarship librarian, subject-specific liaison librarian, scholarly communication librarian, special collections librarian, library information analyst, open educational resources (OER) librarian, catalog librarian, student success librarian, metadata librarian, and research and instruction librarian. This table covers some of the most common specializations with suggested courses for each.

| | Focus on User Services | Focus on Collections | Focus on Management | Focus on Cataloging | |
|---|--|--|--|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Required Courses | ---- Highly Recommended ---- | | | | |
| 500 Human Information Interactions | 701 Info Retrieval Search Strategies | 700 Scholarly Communication | 685 Project Management | 525 Electronic Records Management | |
| 501 Information Resources & Services | 841 Seminar in Academic Libraries | 740 Digital Libraries | 782 Library Assessment | 720 Metadata | |
| 513 Resource Selection and Evaluation | <u>At least ONE of:</u> 703 Science Information 704 Humanities and Social Science Info 705 Health Sciences Info 707 Govt Information 709 Business Information 746 Music Librarianship 749 Art and Visual Information Management | 841 Seminar in Academic Libraries | 786 Marketing of Information Services | 721 Cataloging Theory and Practice | |
| 520 Organization of Information | | <u>At least ONE of:</u> 703 Science Information 704 Humanities and Social Science Info 705 Health Sciences Info 707 Govt Information 709 Business Information 746 Music Librarianship 749 Art and Visual Information Management | 841 Seminar in Academic Libraries | 841 Seminar in Academic Libraries | 752 Digital Preservation and Access |
| 581 Research Methods Overview | | 703 Science Information | At least one course in Financial Management from SILS, School of Government or Kenan Flagler Business School | | 841 Seminar in Academic Libraries |
| 585 Management for Info Professionals | | 704 Humanities and Social Science Info | | | |
| 781 Proposal Preparation and Development | | 705 Health Sciences Info | | | |
| 992 Master's Paper (related to academic library issues) | | 707 Govt Information | | | |
| | | 709 Business Information | | | |
| | | 746 Music Librarianship | | | |
| | | 749 Art and Visual Information Management | | | |
| | | 857 Seminar in Rare Book Collections | | | |
| | ---- Recommended ---- | | | | |
| | 523 Database Systems I | 556 Intro to Archives | 503 Communication Skills | 523 Database Systems I | |
| | 582 Systems Analysis | 553 Database Systems I | 523 Database Systems I | 582 Systems Analysis | |
| | 584 Information Ethics | 582 Systems Analysis | 582 Systems Analysis | 584 Information Ethics | |
| | 740 Digital Libraries | 584 Information Ethics | 584 Information Ethics | 795 Prof Field Experience | |
| | 739 Info Services for Special Populations | 752 Digital Preservation and Access | 795 Prof Field Experience | | |
| | 795 Prof Field Experience | 753 Preservation of Library and Archive Materials | | | |
| | 888 Seminar in Teaching and Academic Life | 795 Prof Field Experience | | | |

Note: Work experience in Academic Libraries is an almost universal requirement for finding a position after graduation. If you do not have such experience (for example working as a graduate assistant in an academic library), the Professional Field Experience course is especially important. Students are encouraged to review the courses offered as INLS 690 or INLS 890 (special topics) each semester, as some of these courses may be relevant to this specialization.