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PROGRAM DIRECTOR
SCHOLARSHIP TOOLS AND METHODS

Led by the LAUC-SD Mentoring Committee, Librarian Profiles offer background information and career-related advice from UC San Diego librarians to MLIS students and graduates.

Which institution did you earn your MLIS or other graduate degree?

University of Michigan
(1999)

Do you currently or did you ever hold a professional library position related to the focus you pursued in graduate school?

Yes

Did you have work experience at any level in a library of any type prior to attending library school?

No

Do you have another advanced degree(s) in addition to any MLIS?

Yes, JD (Juris Doctor)

Did you focus on a particular area of librarianship while earning your MLIS?

Yes, Archives and Records Management

Beyond the MLIS, do you feel that any additional advanced degree is essential to success in your current position?

No

What are some of your current tasks and responsibilities?

- Manage and lead a team of individuals, advocating for their needs
- In collaboration with team and leadership, plan out near and long term work of program
- In collaboration with other program directors, collaborate on project and service development to meet the needs of researchers, campus, and community
- Manage budgets and other resources
- Promote the expertise and services of the program across the library and campus

What are some skills or core competencies you feel are essential to success in your current position?

- Curiosity
- Comfort with ambiguity
- People management and motivation
- Strategic planning and execution
- Change management

What do you like best about being a librarian or about your current role or responsibilities?

Advocate and support individuals with deep expertise and give them an opportunity to flourish. Insure that our deep and rich holdings are broadly available and as openly accessible as possible.

What do you like best about working in an academic or university setting?

Helping people to explore and feed their own curiosity and share that with others.

What is something that you think contributed to you getting your first professional job following graduate school for your MLIS?

I was willing to move across the country to California and take a two-year grant-funded (and therefore not permanent) position, so flexibility is a must. Also, I didn't know anything about architecture or its records, but the person who hired me saw that I had a solid background in archival processing and digitization, and could learn the rest. I also worked in an archives and did a variety of work while in school to try and gain as many practical experiences as possible.

What is your advice to MLIS students seeking or entering their first professional library position?

Take as many opportunities as you can to work in libraries, archives, or whichever setting(s) you think you might want to work in - paid internships, work study jobs, etc. while getting your degree.

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Please contact me to further discuss my work or background.

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