

# Adele Barsh

BUSINESS AND  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP LIBRARIAN

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 Pittsburgh

**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?**

No

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

Yes, special librarianship and academic librarianship (I originally wanted to be an art librarian at a university)

**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?**

- Liaising with Rady School of Management, campus business startup incubators, & campus Career Center
- Performing collection development
- Offering research consultations and staffing the Research Assistance Desk
- Providing instruction on business resources and datasets
- Conducting outreach promoting library services and resources
- Creating webpages and other materials to help researchers
- Contributing to library projects and committees

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

The focus on research and teaching/learning is a hugely gratifying part of my job. I am part of a team helping students develop their intellectual and research skills, and move into their life path. Every day I work with researchers creating new knowledge. I enjoy that my subject resources are potentially of use to everyone on campus who has business, investing, or career development information needs, and I enjoy making them as accessible as possible.

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

- Cultivate curiosity, active listening, and interpersonal communication skills
- Familiarity with reference interviewing techniques, collection development concepts and instruction methodologies
- I see resources in my discipline as having personalities, and know their strengths inside and out
- Stay well-versed in business and information ethics, and legal topics such as copyright, trade secrets, and taxation

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

My undergraduate alumnae network helped. The search coordinator was also an alumna, and I think I got called to interview because that caused her to look at my application with more attention than just glancing over it casually. Networking is important, and can get your foot in the door, folks!

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

The people I meet and the topics we tackle together. I'm never bored: Every day is different, presenting new questions that require creative thinking to solve. I get a kick out of times when I unexpectedly hear one of the business startups I helped early on get profiled in the mass media.

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

Get involved with professional groups early; they help you with learning outside your organization. Ask questions, but also listen to your colleagues. Prepare to "shift gears" quickly once you're on-the-job. Library school cues you up to be successful, but the job will be a different level of learning and activity.

*last updated June 2024*

Please contact me to further discuss my work or background.

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