

Allegra Swift

SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATIONS 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?

San Jose State University

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, Archives and Records Management, Digitization, and Digital Libraries

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?

-Support researchers and scholars at UC San Diego from all backgrounds, disciplines, and at all career stages in disseminating knowledge and creative works

-Guide the dissemination of open, visible, and affordable (to the authors & readers) publications by UCSD authors

-Help individuals with communicating research impact & reputation management

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

-Persistence, adaptiveness, constant learning, and a thick skin

-Willingness to do outreach, network, and build partnerships

-Knowledge of best practices in publishing and copyright

-An ability to assess how the systems of scholarly communication do or do not work together or for the author

-An understanding of how the system and practices are evolving across disciplines

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

My favorite part about this job is working on the cutting edge of scholarly communication. It's also the most challenging aspect of the role.

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

On a campus there is a pervasive atmosphere of learning, exploration, and problem solving. It's also a beautiful campus so every aspect, the work and the environment, is inspiring.

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

I was working in an academic library, checking in every journal issue the UC subscribed to and doing an internship with the digital library...So, transferable skills and strategic volunteering.

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

Work in a library and explore your options. I worked in libraries in a cultural center, 2 major law firms, a public library, and academic libraries.

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Please contact me to further discuss my work or background.

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Visit my websites: [ORCID](#) and [UCSD Library](#)