Stephanie Labou

DATA SCIENCE 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?
M.S. in Marine Science, Oregon State University; no MLIS

What are some of your current tasks and responsibilities?
-Provide data-related assistance and reference, including discovering and analyzing datasets, software recommendations and support, analytic tools, and data management best practices
-Provide data-related instruction including data literacy, data analytical skills, and data-related best practices including data management and reproducible research
-Develop collections of datasets and software to support the teaching, learning, and research needs of the students and faculty
-Collaborate with other Library programs and campus partners to develop and implement strategies to support the acquisition, management, curation, preservation, discovery, and reuse of datasets
-Serve as a contact and information resource on library services, resources, and policies for the Halıcıoğlu Data Science Institute

What are some skills or core competencies you feel are essential to success in your current position?
-Interest in and enthusiasm for data, across disciplines
-Knowledge of/experience with finding, accessing, analyzing, and visualizing data
-Programming experience and ability to learn new technical skills (which requires a good amount of curiosity and willingness to fail before succeeding)
-Networking and community building

What do you like best about working in an academic or university setting?
There's a good mixture of structure and flexibility when it comes to doing your day-to-day job.

What is something that you think contributed to you getting your first professional job following graduate school for your MLIS?
Luck, a dedication to learning new skills, and an enthusiastic willingness to adapt and grow in new positions.

What do you like best about being a librarian or about your current role or responsibilities?
I most enjoy seeing the different kinds of projects that students and faculty are working on. In my position, I help people find the data they need for their project, which means I get to learn about all kinds of interesting datasets and data sources! Being able to guide a researcher to the data they're looking for, and help them understand the data structure and content if needed, is gratifying.

What is your advice to MLIS students seeking or entering their first professional library position?
Join professional organizations in your field and attend conferences. This is a great way to meet other librarians with similar jobs and start establishing your professional network.

last updated Jan. 2023