

# Michelle Mascaro

HEAD  
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS METADATA

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 North Carolina, Chapel Hill

**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, organization of information

**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?**

- Oversee the Special Collections Metadata Unit
- Manage projects
- Develop workflows and documentation
- Catalog rare materials
- Serve on the Special Collections & Archives reference desk

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

- Expert knowledge of cataloging standards and practices
- Understanding of the unique needs of rare materials and their researchers
- Management skills (including empathy)
- Attention to detail
- Problem solving skills

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

Getting to work with rare and historical materials and make them accessible to researchers.

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

Getting to work with a variety of people (faculty, students, staff, and fellow librarians).

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

Since I did not have any previous library experience, internships were key to gaining the experience I needed to get my first professional job. Also, per my first boss, my willingness to learn new skills and challenge myself was one of reasons they hired me.

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

The quality and clarity of your resume and cover letter can make or break whether you get an interview or not. I highly recommend having others review your resume and cover letter before submitting.

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Please contact me to further discuss my work or background.  
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