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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 at Chapel Hill (MSLS, 2003)

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

No

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

Yes

What are some of your current tasks and responsibilities?

-Supervisor to librarians and staff who manage the Data & GIS Lab, Digital Media Lab, and digital library reformatting
-General reference, research assistance, instruction, outreach, and collection development and management for multiple disciplines: Political Science, Law & Society, International Studies, International Government Information, and related areas

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

No

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

No

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

- Listening
- Search skills
- Patience
- Flexibility
- Curiosity

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

As a subject librarian, I really enjoy a good reference question, being able to ferret out a dataset or hard-to-find publication that turns out to be the lynchpin to someone's research project. As a supervisor, I really love getting to cheer on my direct reports' successes and encourage their career growth.

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

I am a huge believer in the mission of public higher education. I enjoy helping students learn how to think about and navigate information--which is a skill I hope will follow them throughout their whole lives--and also playing a small role in supporting research that may have a very real, positive impact on the world.

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

Getting a professional librarian position is just plain hard--after finishing my MSLS, I worked as a paraprofessional for four years before landing this position, which required moving across state lines and accepting a salary that I couldn't really afford to live on. That additional work experience was invaluable--especially as I was given some librarian-level tasks like collection development--but so was my ability to be flexible and move.

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

I always tell people who are considering library school to get a job in a library first and see if you like the work before making the investment in a whole additional degree. It's also invaluable if it gives you an opportunity to learn about the hiring process from the inside - the format of the interviews, the types of questions asked, presentation formats, or even what screening committees look for.

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Please contact me to further discuss my work or background.

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