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LIBRARIAN FOR LATIN AMERICAN AND
IBERIAN STUDIES AND ANTHROPOLOGY

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 Texas

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

No

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?

Yes, Ph.D in Latin American History, Rutgers University

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

Yes

What are some of your current tasks and responsibilities?

- Collection development
- Provide research assistance through research consultations and reference desk
- Instruction (on research methodologies and topical literature searching)
- Organize events
- Outreach: Send emails about services and relevant events, attend events to network, have office hours and frequently spend time in Latin American Studies Building

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

- Subject knowledge in Latin American Studies and Anthropology (awareness of key topics/debates and scholars in the field, awareness of major reference materials and resources such as journals)
- Ability to find current literature to identify new topics and scholars
- Knowledge about collection development resources and methodologies
- Knowledge and practice in reference and instructional methodologies
- Interpersonal and networking skills

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

I am surrounded by other learners doing interesting work. At UCSD, I work with a lot of social scientists impacting policy and current events, which is very important.

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

My background as a PhD and the fact that I worked at a library (albeit public) while earning my MLIS were both instrumental. In my public library work, I developed indispensable collection development and reference skills.

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

I love supporting all library users (from undergraduates to faculty, postdocs, and visiting scholars) with research. It is very gratifying to help them and I feel that I am always learning myself.

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

If possible, getting actual experience in a library (of any type) will help you significantly in identifying the kind of work you want to do and getting a job. Talking to librarians will also help you.

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Please contact me to further discuss my work or background.

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