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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?

San Jose State University
(2014)

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, online learning design and user engagement in academic 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?

- Development & management of research collections in life & health sciences
- Provide collections-related support & training to subject librarians
- Review and recommend UC-wide licensed resources, renewals, & cancellations
- Represent life & health science interests on scholarly communication, open access, & transformative agreement issues
- Collaborate with other librarians to provide outreach, reference, research support, & information literacy instruction

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

- Adaptability
- Communication
- Occupational Knowledge/Subject Specialty
- Problem Solving/Decision Making
- Quality Focus

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

The many roles and responsibilities we can pursue. As a specialist and strategist, I'm able to develop knowledge in specific areas, enabling me to make valuable contributions within the Library. As an instructor & research assistance provider, I love working with individuals to help them overcome obstacles they may have in their studies & research.

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

- Knowledge-gathering & resource-acquisition come more easily in this setting because we collect, store, and manage information specifically to advance learning
- The rhythm of the academic calendar: Holiday and seasonal breaks are relaxing, orientation weeks are exciting, finals and midterms get busy. It's a joy to see students going about university life.

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

As a student, I took advantage of opportunities to participate in professional activities outside of school. This knowledge transferred to job applications and networking. Every job I've had was the result of a professional contact recommending me, or referring me, for the position.

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

Spend time with a variety of librarians in the different settings you're contemplating—you may think you want one thing, but might miss out on a myriad of other possibilities to expand your skill set.

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Please contact me to further discuss my work or background.

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