

ACADEMIC LIBRARIES

*A Specialization in the Masters in Library and Information Science Degree
Graduate School of Library and Information Science
Dominican University*

Introduction

Academic librarians typically work in the libraries and research centers of higher education institutions, including community colleges, technical institutes, undergraduate and graduate colleges and universities, and large research universities. The primary mission of most academic libraries is to advance the teaching, learning, and research programs of the institution. Depending on the policies of the institution, a librarian may be hired for a tenure-track or academic staff position. Academic librarians usually have professional responsibilities in one or more of the following areas: reference and instruction, collection development and management, access services, cataloging and classification, information systems, and special collections. Issues of particular interest to academic librarians include information literacy, distance learning, scholarly communication, digital resources, and preservation.

Useful sources for information about academic librarianship are the web sites of the Association of College and Research Libraries (<http://www.ala.org/acrl>) and the Association of Research Libraries (<http://www.arl.org>).

Competencies

The competencies that an academic librarian should possess and exercise mirror those of other librarians, but particular emphasis should be given to the design and delivery of instruction, the application of information technologies in academic environments, management and preservation of research materials, and an understanding of the research process.

Courses

In addition to completion of the core and required courses (12 credits), a student should consider 3 elective courses (9 credits) from the list below. The selection of courses will depend on the particular area of academic library work a student seeks to pursue. Students should review the Reference Services, Cataloging and Classification, Archives and Special Collections, and Digital Libraries sample pathways for suggested coursework to complete their degree requirement of 36 credits.

GSLIS Core Courses (4 courses – 16 credits):

LIS701: Introduction to Library and Information Science

LIS703: Organization of Knowledge

LIS704: Reference and Online Services

LIS899: Capstone Course

Required Management Course (1 course – 3 credits):

LIS770: Management of Libraries and Information Centers

Electives (3 courses – 9 credits; recommended):

In addition to selecting three of the elective courses listed below, students should review the Reference Services, Cataloging and Classification, Archives and Special Collections, and Digital Libraries sample pathways for suggested coursework to complete their degree requirements (5 courses – 15 credits).

LIS733: Serials: Problems and Techniques

LIS737: Online Information Systems

LIS748: Collection Management

LIS751: Database Management

LIS752: Networks

LIS753: Internet Fundamentals

LIS755: Information Policy

LIS759: Digital Libraries

LIS764: Library User Instruction

LIS768: Library 2.0 and Social Networking Technologies

LIS772: Academic Libraries

LIS779: Planning and Equipping Libraries

LIS799: Practicum