

LAW LIBRARIANSHIP

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

Introduction

The MLIS degree offered at the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at Dominican University prepares graduates for professional positions in the field of library and information science. Students may focus their study in a variety of specializations in order to acquire expertise in a specific aspect of the profession. The faculty has prepared descriptions of several different career paths along with suggested groups of courses from which students may select. These samples are not substitutes for faculty advising, but are representative examples. Students should always consult their advisor when outlining a specific course of study.

Law librarians are affiliated with a wide range of institutions: law firms; law schools; corporate legal departments; courts; and local, state and federal government agencies. Law librarianship is defined by its content and clientele; most typical functions in a law library are those found in all types of libraries (e.g., cataloging and classification, reference, acquisitions). A good source of information about law librarianship is the website of the American Association of Law Libraries at www.aallnet.org.

Competencies

It is not necessary to have a background in the law to be a law librarian, although many law librarians do have experience working in legal settings and/or law degrees. The American Association of Law Libraries has developed a list of Competencies of Law Librarianship (<http://www.aallnet.org/prodev/competencies.asp>) which emphasizes developing an understanding of and commitment to excellent client services; understanding and communicating within the culture of the library and its parent organization; a commitment to the Ethical Principles of the AALL and the shared values of librarianship; developing an understanding of and communication skills with publishers and other information vendors; pursuit of continuing personal and professional growth; and recognition of the value of professional networking and active participation in professional associations. Also of interest and value is the list of competencies developed by the Special Libraries Association (which has a Legal Division) available at www.sla.org/content/learn/comp2003/index.cfm.

Courses

GSLIS CORE (12 CREDITS-4 CLASSES)

LIS 701 Introduction to Library and Information Science

LIS 703 Organization of Knowledge

LIS 704 Reference and Online Services

LIS 899 Capstone Course

REQUIRED MANAGEMENT COURSE (3 CREDITS-1 CLASS)

LIS 770 Management of Libraries and Information Centers

LAW LIBRARIANSHIP COURSES (18 CREDITS-6 CLASSES)

LIS 744 Government Information Resources

LIS 745 Searching Electronic Databases

LIS 753 Internet Fundamentals and Design

LIS 787 Legal Information Resources

LIS 788 Law Librarianship

LIS 790 Seminar in Law Librarianship

ELECTIVES (6 CREDITS - 2 CLASSES, STRONGLY RECOMMENDED)

LIS 716 Communication for Leadership

LIS 730 Cataloging and Classification

LIS 733 Serials: Problems and Techniques

LIS 752 Networks

LIS 755 Information Policy

LIS 880 Knowledge Management

LIS 882 Metadata for Internet Resources