

2003 Master of Library & Information Science Placement Survey

FACULTY OF INFORMATION AND MEDIA STUDIES

The University of Western Ontario



**2003 Placement Survey of MLIS Graduates
Faculty of Information and Media Studies
The University of Western Ontario**

SUMMARY

Of the 95 students who graduated from the Master of Library and Information Science program in 2003, 37 graduates completed the placement survey. This represents an overall response rate of 38.9%.

Placement Rate

Of the 37 respondents, 34 reported finding employment, representing a 91.9% placement rate. Approximately 90% of students who were employed stated they were working in positions related to the MLIS degree. Three quarters of graduates were employed in full-time positions.

Types of Placement and Job Assignment

Graduates were employed in many different types of organizations, the most common being a public library (23.5%). The most common primary job assignment reported was reference or information services (23.5%).

Salary

Graduates with full-time positions reported a salary range from \$24,000 to \$52,000. The median salary was \$40,000.

Location of Placement

The majority of graduates reported being employed in Ontario (67.6%). Three graduates reported employment outside of Canada.

Length of Job Search

Approximately 35% of graduates reported finding employment before completing the MLIS degree. Almost 53% were employed in six months (or less) after graduation.

Skill or Knowledge Most Influential in Securing Employment

The two skills graduates cited as most influential in securing employment were subject specialization (cataloguing, reference, business, science, etc.) (36.7%) and co-op experience (26.7%).

SURVEY DATA

Total Number of Survey Respondents: 37

Table 1: Gender		
	No.	%
Female	6	17.1%
Male	29	82.9%
	35	100.0%

Table 2: Employment Status		
	No.	%
Full-Time	28	75.7%
Part-Time	6	16.2%
Not Employed	3	8.1%
	36	100.0%

Table 3: Relation of Employment to MLIS Degree		
	No.	%
Yes (Related)	30	90.9%
No (Not Related)	3	9.1%
	33	100.0%

Table 4: Type of Employment		
	No.	%
Permanent Professional	20	66.7%
Temporary Professional	10	33.3%
Permanent Non-Professional	0	0
Temporary Non-Professional	0	0
	30	100.0%

Table 5: Type of Organization		
	No.	%
University or College Library	6	17.6%
Government Library	1	2.9%
Public Library	8	23.5%
Special Library	3	8.8%
School Library	3	8.8%
Archives	2	5.9%
Library Cooperative/Network	2	5.9%
*Other (please specify)	9	26.5%
	34	100.0%

*Other: Corporate Affairs
 Non-Governmental Organization
 Manufacturing Industry
 University (non-library) (2)
 Prospect Research
 Regional library serving publics & schools
 Nuclear Power Utility

Table 6: Primary Job Assignment		
	No.	%
Administration/Management	3	8.8%
Archives	2	5.9
Information Literacy Instruction	2	5.9%
Cataloguing	4	11.8%
Circulation	1	2.9%
Collections	1	2.9%
Teacher-Librarian	3	8.8%
Reference/Information Services	8	23.5%
Youth and Children's Services	3	8.8%
Webmaster, Web Content Manager	1	2.9%
*Other	6	17.6%
	34	100.0%

*Other: Research
 All Public Services
 Part Archiving, Part Cataloguing
 Sessional Instructor / Teaching Assistant
 Consultant
 Teaching Assistant

Table 7: Employment by a Former Co-op Employer		
	No.	%
Yes	2	6.1%
No	21	63.6%
Not Applicable	10	30.3%
	33	100.0%

Table 8: Reported Full-Time Annual Salaries	
Low Salary	\$24,000
High Salary	\$62,000
Median Salary	\$40,000
Average Salary	\$38,745

Number of respondents who included *annual* salary data for a full-time position = 17

Table 9: Range of Reported Full-Time Annual Salaries		
	No.	%
\$20,000-\$29,999	2	11.8%
\$30,000-\$39,999	6	35.3%
\$40,000-\$49,999	8	47.1%
\$50,000-\$59,999	1	5.9%
	17	100.0%

Table 10: Location of Placement		
	No.	%
Alberta	3	8.8%
British Columbia	2	5.9%
Manitoba	1	2.9%
New Brunswick	2	5.9%
Ontario	23	67.6%
United States	2	5.9%
West Indies	1	2.9%
	34	100.0%

Table 11: When Employment Was Received		
	No.	%
Before entering MLIS program	3	8.8%
Before completing degree	12	35.3%
Less than 3 months after graduation	8	23.5%
3-6 months after graduation	10	29.4%
More than 6 months after graduation	1	2.9%
	34	100.0%

Table 12: Skill or Knowledge Most Influential in Securing Employment		
	No.	%
Subject specialization (cataloguing, reference, business, science etc.)	11	36.7%
Type of library environment (academic, public, special, school etc.)	4	13.3%
Technological skills	3	10.0%
Management, marketing, communication skills	2	6.7%
Internship, co-op or practicum experience	8	26.7%
*Other	2	6.7%
	30	100.0%

*Other: "All of the above; they wanted diverse knowledge."
Children's Service Course

Table 13: Situation of Graduates Currently Not Employed in a Library / Information Field		
	No.	%
Working in another field	1	20.0%
Seeking employment in the LIS field	2	40.0%
Pursuing a further degree in the LIS field	1	20.0%
Pursuing a further degree in another field	1	20.0%
	5	100.00%