

2008 Master of Library & Information Science Placement Survey

FACULTY OF INFORMATION AND MEDIA STUDIES

The University of Western Ontario



**2008 Placement Survey of MLIS Graduates
Faculty of Information and Media Studies
The University of Western Ontario**

SUMMARY

Of the 185 students who graduated from the Master of Library and Information Science program in 2008, 83 completed the placement survey. This represents an overall response rate of 45.4%.

Note: The majority of statistics that follow in this report (e.g. type of employment, location, etc.) pertain to those respondents who reported finding employment.

Placement Rate

Of the 83 respondents, 71 reported finding employment. This represents an 86% placement rate. Of those employed, (89%) have secured a position related to their MLIS degree. The majority of respondents are employed full-time (71%), with 43 people in permanent positions.

Salary

The responding graduates holding full-time positions reported an annual salary range from \$30,000 to \$73,733. The median full-time salary was \$47,120.

Types of Placement and Job Assignment

Positions were offered in many different types of organizations with the most common being public libraries (26%) and university or college libraries (21%). The primary job assignment reported most often was Reference/Information Services (30%). Cataloguing was the second most frequent with 15%.

Skill or Knowledge Most Influential in Securing Employment

Twenty two respondents identified Subject Specialization as the skill most helpful in securing employment; 20 graduates report their co-op experience as the factor which was most helpful to them. In 2008, thirty four respondents participated in the MLIS Co-op Program.

Length of Job Search

Approximately 43% of employed respondents reported finding employment less than three months after graduation, with an additional 22% working within three to six months. Eighteen respondents had secured positions prior to graduation. Within six months of graduation, almost 65% of respondents were employed (excluding those respondents who had employment before entering the program).

Location of Placement

Mostly all employed respondents reported being employed within Canada, with the majority located in Ontario (71%). Employment was also secured in the United States and the United Kingdom.

SURVEY DATA

Total Number of Survey Respondents: 83

Table 1: Gender		
	No.	%
Female	53	81.5%
Male	12	18.5%
	65	100.0%

Table 2: Employment Status		
	No.	%
Full-Time	59	71.1%
Part-Time	12	14.5%
Not Employed	12	14.5%
	83	100.0%

Table 3: Relation of Employment to MLIS Degree		
	No.	%
Yes (Related)	63	90.0%
No (Not Related)	7	10.0%
	70	100.0%

Table 4: Type of Appointment		
	No.	%
Permanent Professional	43	67.2%
Temporary Professional	17	26.6%
Permanent Non-Professional	0	0%
Temporary Non-Professional	4	6.3%
	64	100.0%

Table 5: Reported Full-Time Salaries	
Low Salary	\$30,000
High Salary	\$73,733
Median Salary	\$47,120
Average Salary	\$46,917

Number of respondents who included salary data for a full-time position = 53

Table 6: Range of Reported Full-Time Salaries		
	No.	%
\$30,000 – \$39,999	15	28.3%
\$40,000 – \$49,999	12	22.6%
\$50,000 – \$59,999	22	41.5%
\$60,000 – \$69,999	3	5.7%
\$70,000 – \$79,999	1	1.9%
	53	100.0%

Table 7: Type of Organization		
	No.	%
Archives	2	3.1%
Consulting Self-Employed	2	3.1%
Cooprative/Network	1	1.5%
Government Library	4	6.2%
Library System Vendor	1	1.5%
Public Library	17	26.2%
Special Library	10	15.4%
School Library	2	3.1%
University or College Library	14	21.2%
*Other (please specify)	12	18.5%
	66	100.0%

***Other:**

Cataloguing Agency (1)
 Government (1)
 Hospital (1)
 Law Firm (1)
 Library Services (1)
 Library Vendor (2)
 Non Profit (1)
 Publishing Industry (1)
 Recruiting Firm (1)
 Special Corporate (1)
 University Advancement Dept. (1)

Table 8: Primary Job Assignment		
	No.	%
Administration/Management	3	4.6%
Archives	1	1.5%
Cataloguing	10	15.4%
Collections	2	3.1%
Information Literacy Instruct.	4	6.2%
Marketing Outreach	3	4.6%
Reference/Information Services	20	30.8%
Teacher-Librarian	1	1.5%
Webmaster Web Content Manager	3	4.6%
Youth and Children's Services	6	9.2%
*Other (please specify)	12	18.5%
	65	100.0%

***Other:**

Consulting on IM Projects (1)
 Corporate Research (1)
 Information Management (1)
 Inventory/Organizing Records (1)
 Literature Searching (1)
 Management/Collection (1)
 Prospect Research (2)
 Research (2)
 Reference Collection (1)
 Solo Librarian (1)

Table 9: Did you participate in Co-op?		
	No.	%
Yes	34	52.3%
No (Not Related)	31	47.7%
	65	100.0%

Table 10: Skill or Knowledge Most Influential in Securing Employment		
	No.	%
Co-op experience	20	31.7%
Management, marketing, communication skills	6	9.5%
Subject specialization (cataloguing, reference, business, science, etc.)	22	34.9%
Technological skills	3	4.8%
Type of library environment (academic, public, special, school, etc.)	4	6.3%
Other	8	12.57
	63	100.0%

***Other:**

Practical (1)
Teaching/Presentation Skills (1)
General MLIS (2)
Publishing Knowledge of Libraries (1)
Children's Programming (1)
Archival Courses (2)

Table 11: When Employment Was Received		
	No.	%
Before Completing Degree	18	27.7%
Less Than Three Months After Graduation	28	43.1%
3 – 6 Months After Graduation	14	21.5%
More Than Six Months After Graduation	5	7.7%
	65	100.0%

Table 12: Location of Placement		
	No.	%
Alberta	4	6.2%
British Columbia	3	4.6%
Manitoba	2	3.1%
Nova Scotia	1	1.5%
Ontario	46	70.8%
Quebec	1	1.5%
Saskatchewan	4	6.2%
United Kingdom	1	1.5%
USA	3	4.6%
	65	100.0%

Table 13: Situation of Graduates Currently Not Employed in a Library / Information Field		
	No.	%
Further study in LIS	1	5.3%
Working in another field	5	26.3%
Seeking employment in the LIS field	11	57.9%
Further study in another field	2	10.5
	19	100.0%

*Other: