



FACULTY OF INFORMATION & MEDIA STUDIES
at *The University of Western Ontario*

2019 MASTER OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE PLACEMENT



Western
FIMS

Faculty of Information & Media Studies

Summary

A total of 113 students graduated from the Master of Library and Information Science program in 2019. Of those graduates, 45 completed the placement survey. This represents an overall response rate of 40%.

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 related to their MLIS degree.

It is also worth noting that with the onset of COVID-19 during Spring of 2020, many new employment opportunities were affected and existing roles were modified to ensure compliance with the provincial government guideline.

Placement Rate

Of the 45 respondents, 37 reported finding employment. This represents 82% placement rate. Of those employed, 81% have secured a position related to their MLIS degree. Of the 30 respondents with employment related to their MLIS degree, over three quarters obtained full-time employment (87%), including 17 people who are in permanent positions.

Salary

The responding graduates holding full-time positions related to their MLIS degree reported an annual salary range from \$30,000 to \$90,000. The average full-time salary was \$61,475.

Type of Placement and Job Assignment

Positions were obtained in many different types of organizations with the most common being public libraries (37%) and academic libraries (23%). The primary job / assignment reported most often was Reference/Information Services (40%), followed by Programming (33%), Administration/Management and Records / Information Management (20% respectively).

Skills or knowledge Most Influential in Securing Employment

This year, 18 of the 30 respondents (60%) with employment related to their MLIS degree participated in the MLIS Co-op Program during their studies. Over half of the respondents also identified co-op or practicum experience as most helpful in securing their first job (57%).

Length of Job Search

Of the 30 respondents employed in various LIS related fields, 2 were employed prior to entering the program, while 27% of the respondents reported securing employment before graduation. An additional 37% indicated that they found employment in less than three months after graduation and another 23% reported obtaining employment within three to six months. Altogether, 87% of the respondents were engaged in LIS employment within 6 months of graduation.

Location of Placement

All but one employed respondent reported being employed within Canada, with the majority of positions located in Ontario (70%).

SURVEY DATA

Total Number of Survey Respondents: 45

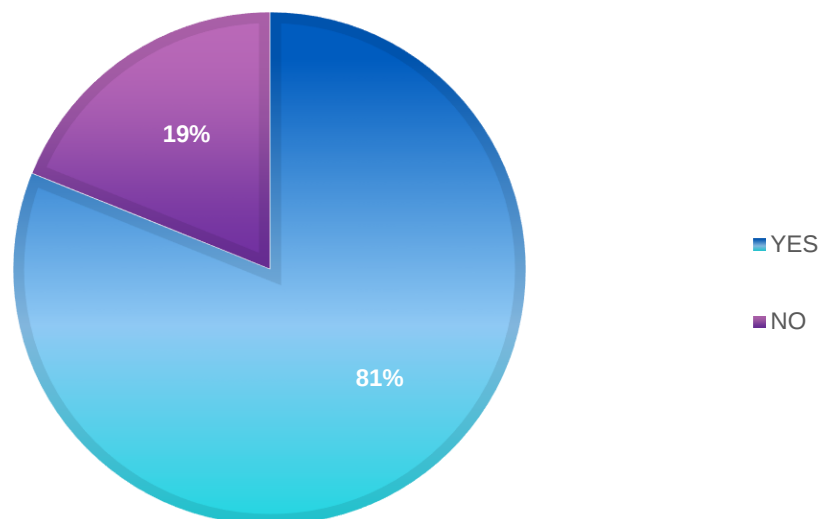
What is your current employment status?

	Count	%
Full-Time	26	58%
Part-Time/Casual	11	24%
Not Employed	8	18%
	45	

3. (For those who found employment)

Is your current employment related to your MLIS degree?

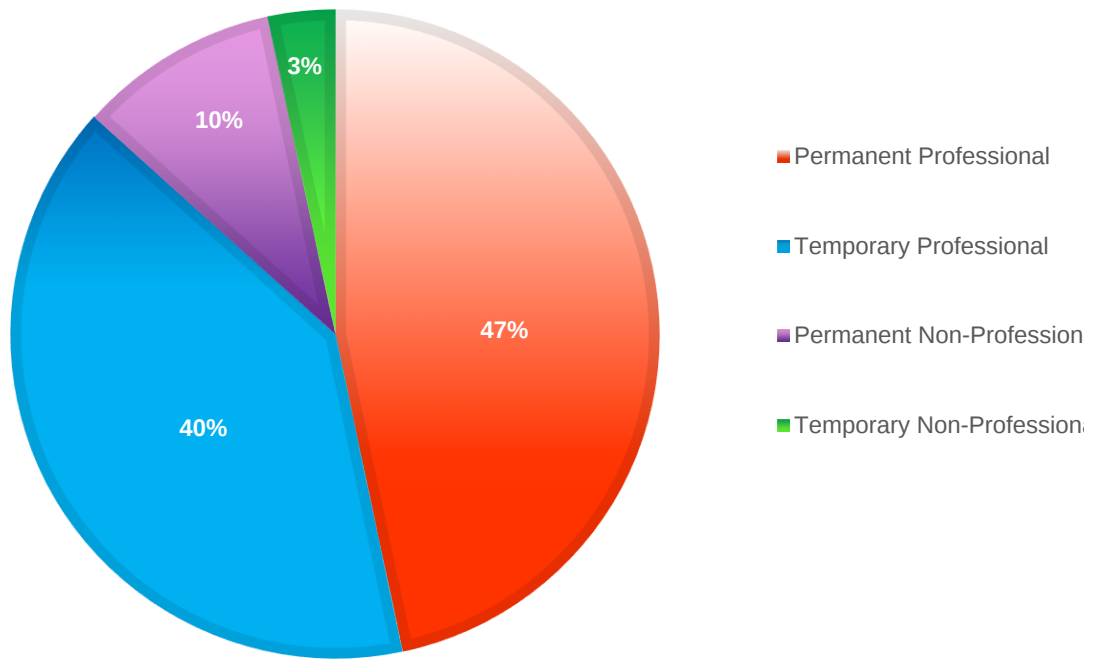
	Count	%
Yes	30	81%
No	7	19%
	37	



The statistics that follow in this report pertain to those respondents who reported finding employment related to their MLIS degree.

4. What is your current type of appointment / employment?

	Count	%
Permanent Professional	14	47%
Temporary Professional	12	40%
Permanent Non-Professional	3	10%
Temporary Non-Professional	1	3%
	30	



5. Reported Full-time Annual Salaries

Lowest Salary	\$30,000
Highest Salary	\$90,000
Average Salary	\$61,475
Total # of respondents	20

6. Range of Reported Full-Time Salaries

	Count	%
\$39,999 & under	1	5%
\$40,000 – \$49,999	4	20%
\$50,000 – \$59,999	1	5%
\$60,000 – \$69,999	9	45%
\$70,000 & above	5	25%
Total # of respondents	20	

7. In what type of organization is your current position? (Select ONE only)

	Count
Academic Library	7
Archives	1
Government Library	3
Public Library	11
School Library	1
Other*	7
	43

*Others included:

Museum/Archive

IGO

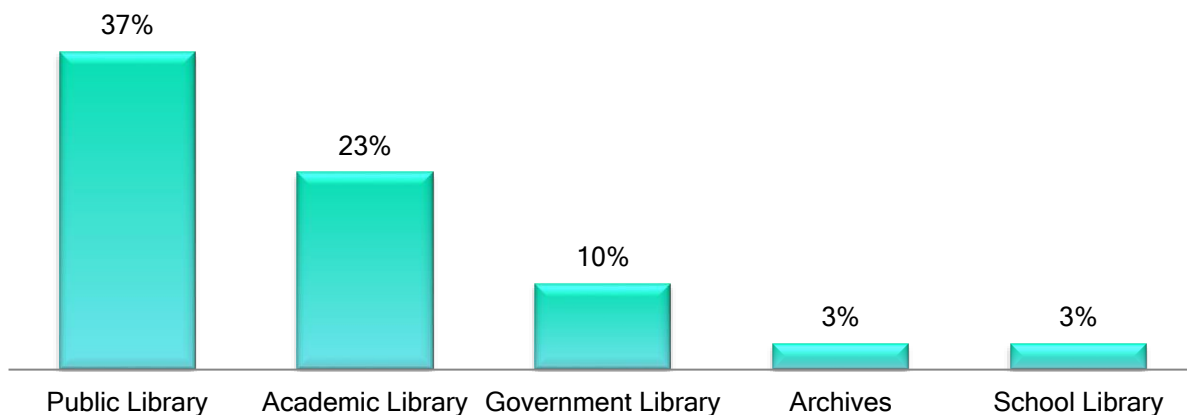
Municipality

Government institution

Government- under IT department

Corporate - Life Insurance - Information Management (Mainly IT)

Not-for-profit pan-Canadian Health data organization

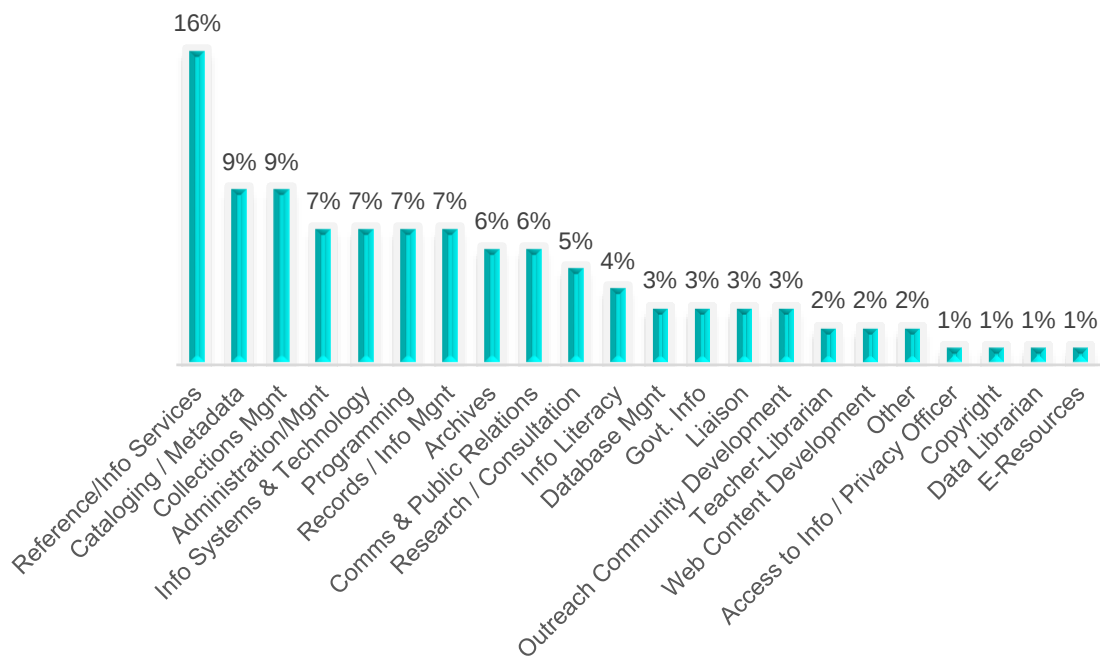


8. What is your primary job assignment (may select up to a maximum of 3 options)

	Count
Access to Information / Privacy Officer	0
Administration/Management	6
Archives	1
Cataloging / Metadata	3
Collections Management	4
Communication & Public Relations	3
Copyright	0
Data Librarian	2
Database Management	1
E-Resources	2
Govt. Information	1
Indexing/Abstracting	0
Information Literacy	4
Information Systems & Technology	4
Liaison	2
Outreach Community Development	3
Programming	10
Prospect Management	0
Records / Information Management	6
Reference/Information Services	12
Research / Consultation	3
Scholarly Communication	0
Teacher-Librarian	1
Web Content Development	0
Other	4
	72

Other options include:

Acquisitions & Purchasing
 Health Sciences Librarian
 Circulation (x2)

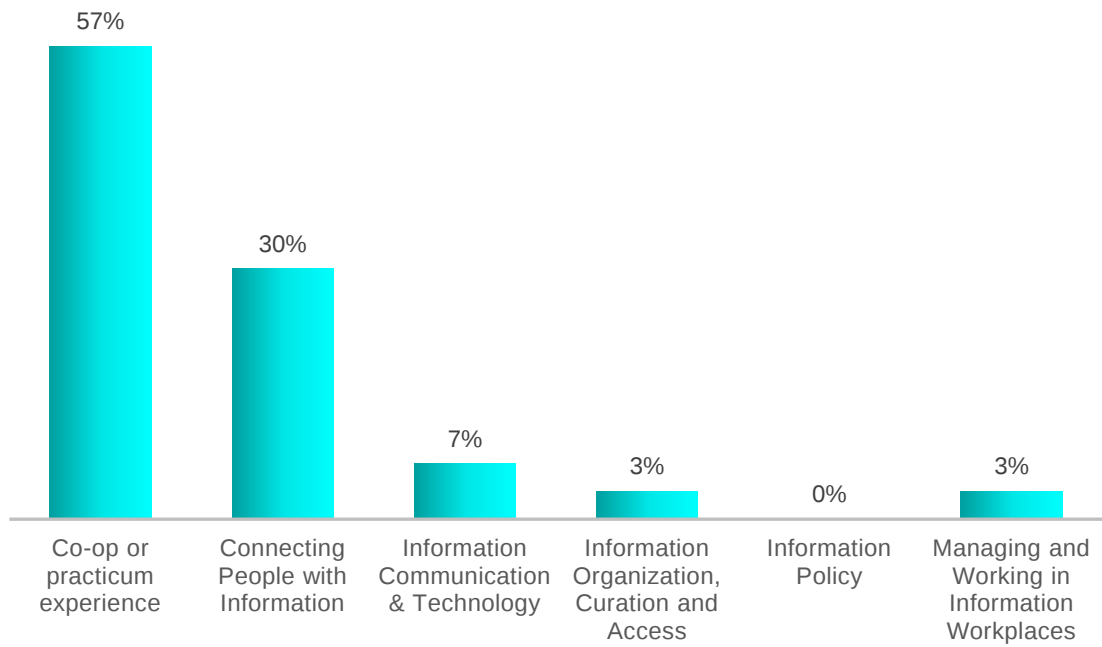


9. Did you participate in Co-op?

	Count
Yes	18
No	12
	30

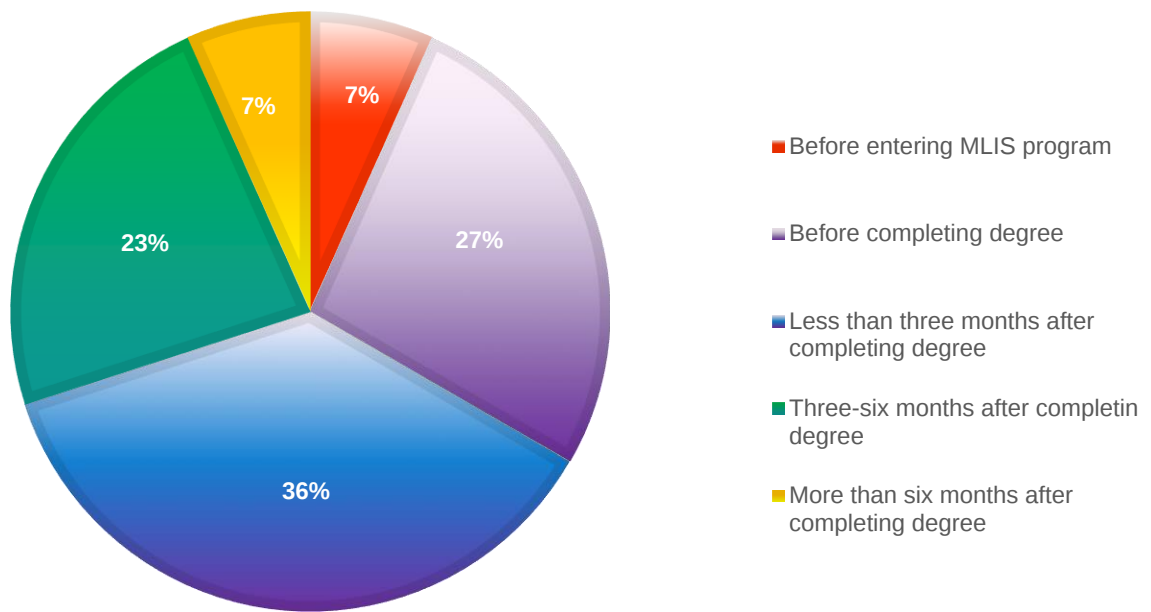
10. What is the ONE area of knowledge / skill you've acquired while in your MLIS program that you considered most helpful in securing your first job?

	Count
Connecting People with Information	9
Co-op or practicum experience	17
Information Communication & Technology	2
Information Organization, Curation and Access	1
Information Policy	0
Managing and Working in Information Workplaces	1
	30



11. When did you obtain employment?

	Count
Before entering MLIS program	2
Before completing degree	8
Less than three months after completing degree	11
Three-six months after completing degree	7
More than six months after completing degree	2
	30



12. Location of Placements

	Counts
Alberta	2
British Columbia	3
Ontario	21
Canada	*1
International	**3
	30

* 1 respondent only listed Canada as the location of their current employment

** International includes 2 US locations

13. Situation of Graduates currently not employed in a library / Information Field

	Counts
Working in another field	5
Seeking employment in the library/information field	6
Pursuing a further degree in the library/information studies field	1
Pursuing a further degree in another field	0
Other	3

Other response includes:

- seeking employment in library/information field and applying to post-grad
- training in another field
- Answers # 1, 2, 4 simultaneously