FIMS

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

2018 MASTER OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE PLACEMENT SURVEY

Western
FIMS
Faculty of Information & Media Studies

SUMMARY

A total of 135 students graduated from the Master of Library and Information Science program in 2018. Of those graduates, 54 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.

Placement Rate

Of the 54 respondents, 47 reported finding employment. This represents 87% placement rate. Of those employed, 91% have secured a position related to their MLIS degree. Of the 43 respondents with employment related to their MLIS degree, over three quarters obtained full-time employment (81%), including 23 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 $35,400 to $78,000. The average full-time salary was $55,895.

Types of Placement and Job Assignment

Positions were obtained in many different types of organizations with the most common being public libraries (33%) and academic libraries (23%). The primary job / assignment reported most often was Reference/Information Services (40%), followed by Cataloging / Metadata and Collection Management (23% respectively) and Programming (19%).

Skill or Knowledge Most Influential in Securing Employment

This year, 29 of the 43 respondents (67%) with employment related to their MLIS degree participated in the MLIS Co-op Program during their studies. Three quarters of the respondents also identified co-op or practicum experience as most helpful in securing their first job (72%).

Length of Job Search

Of the 43 respondents employed in various LIS related fields, 2 were employed prior to entering the program, while 35% of the respondents reported securing employment before graduation. An additional 26% indicated that they found employment in less than three months after graduation and another 26% reported obtaining employment within three to six months. Altogether, 91% 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 (60%).
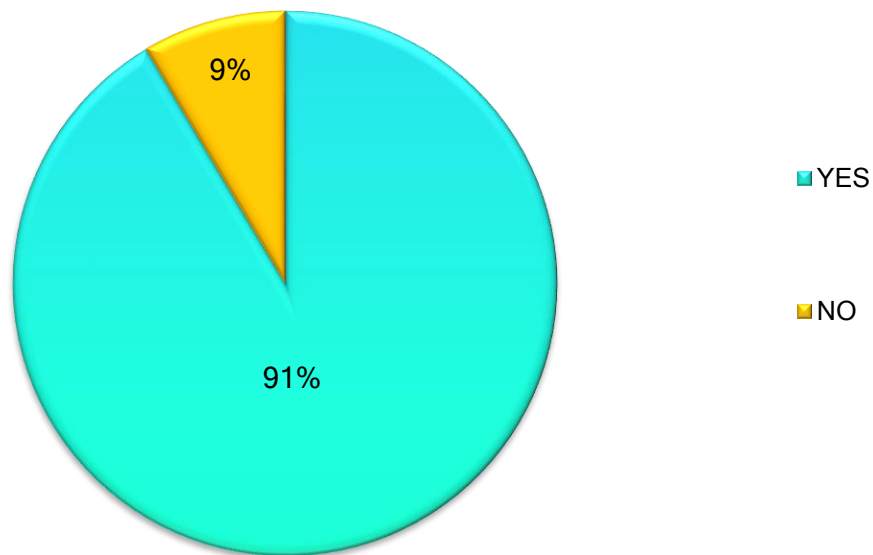
Total Number of Survey Respondents: 54

What is your current employment status?

	Count	%
Full-Time	37	68.5%
Part-Time	10	18.5%
Not Employed	7	13%
	54	

3. (For those who found employment)
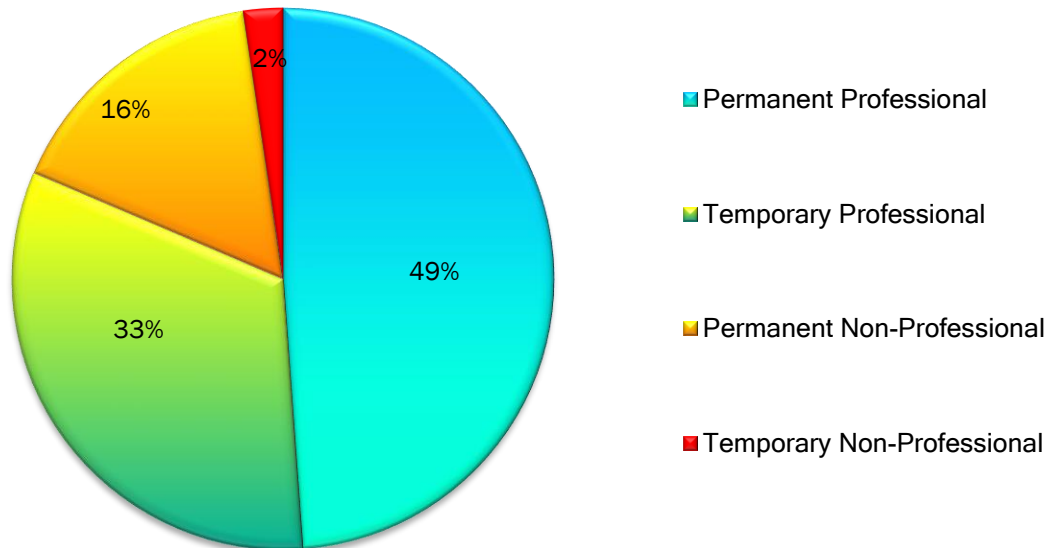Is your current employment related to your MLIS degree?

	Count	%
Yes	43	91%
No	4	9%
	47	

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

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

	Count	%
Permanent Professional	21	49%
Temporary Professional	14	33%
Permanent Non-Professional	7	16%
Temporary Non-Professional	1	2%
	43	

- Permanent Professional — 49%
- Temporary Professional — 33%
- Permanent Non-Professional — 16%
- Temporary Non-Professional — 2%

5. Reported Full-time Annual Salaries

Lowest Salary	$35,400
Highest Salary	$78,000
Average Salary	$55,895
Total # of respondents	34

6. Range of Reported Full-Time Salaries

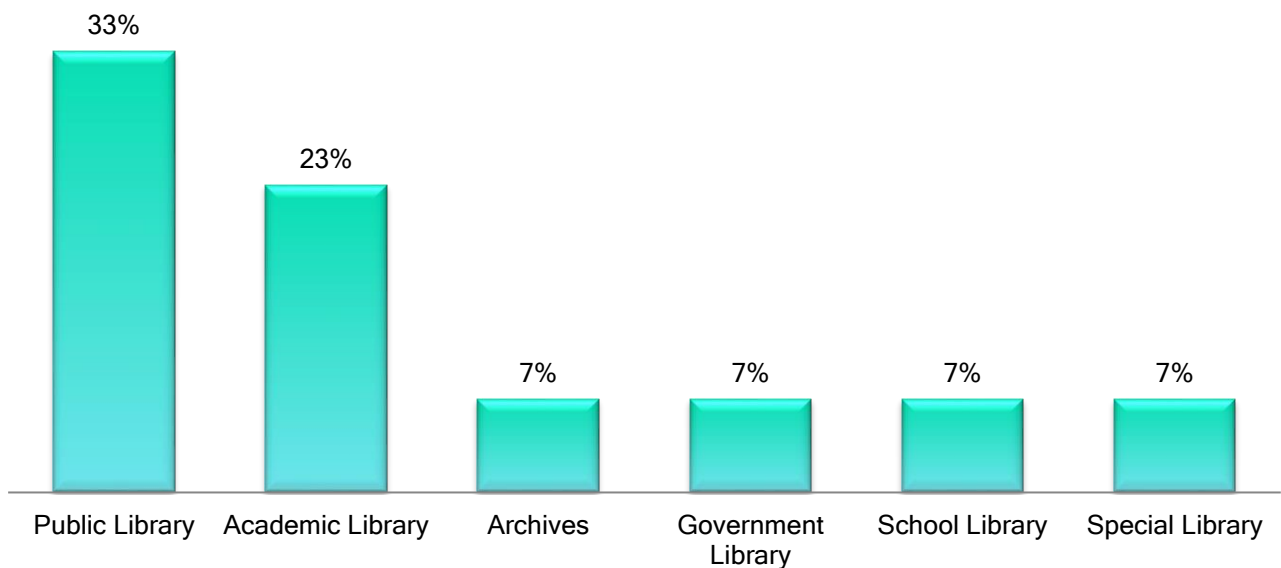|	Count	%
$39,999 & under	1	3%
$40,000 – $49,999	8	23%
$50,000 – $59,999	14	41%
$60,000 – $69,999	5	15%
$70,000 & above	6	18%
Total # of respondents	34	

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

	Count
Academic Library	10
Archives	3
Government Library	3
Public Library	14
School Library	3
Special Library	3
Other*	7
	43

*Others included:

Research Institute

Consortium

Manufacturing; private business

(Archives) MAC Cosmetics

Regional Government (Records Management)

Software company

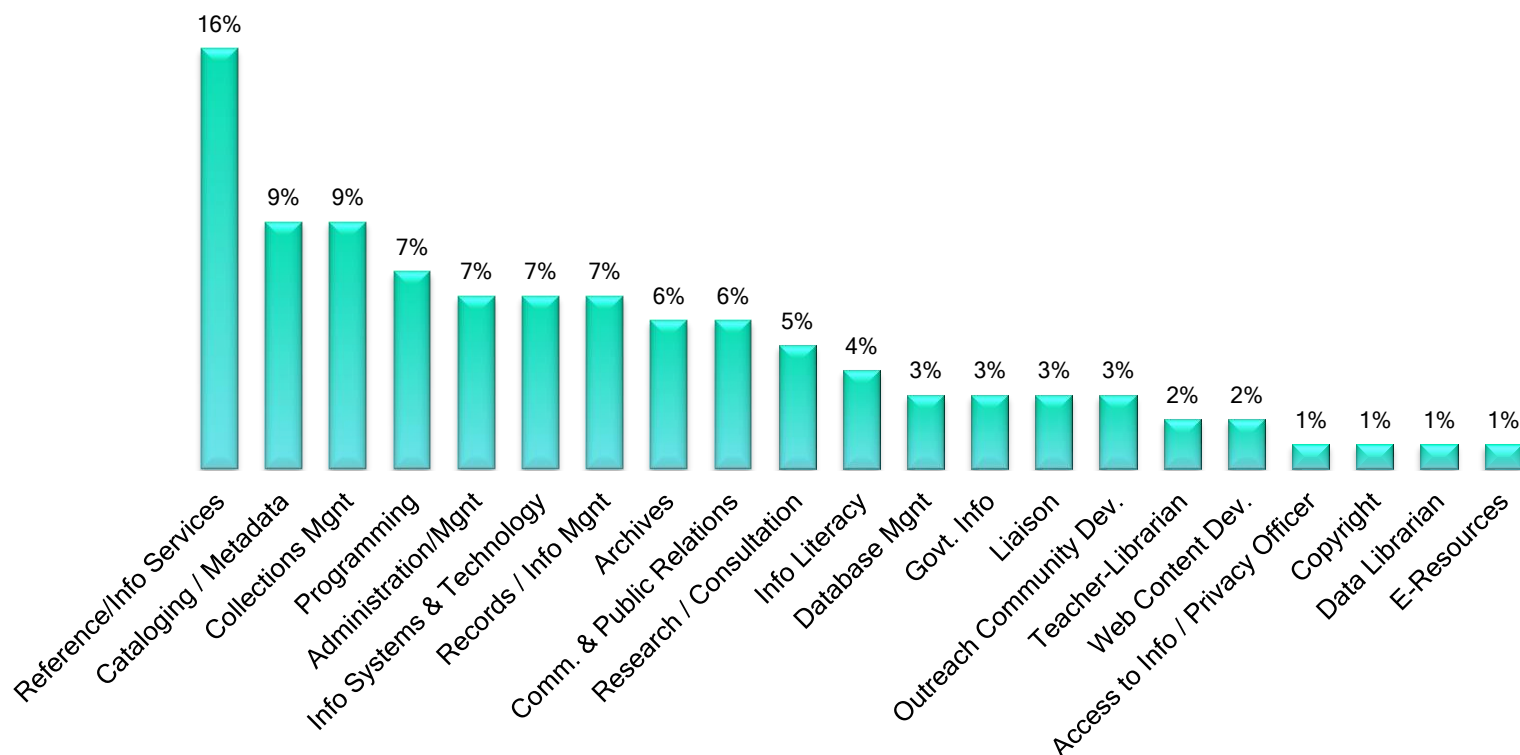Loblaw Corporate office

Film/Media Company

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

	Count
Access to Information / Privacy Officer	1
Administration/Management	7
Archives	6
Cataloging / Metadata	10
Collections Management	10
Communication & Public Relations	6
Copyright	1
Data Librarian	1
Database Management	3
E-Resources	1
Govt. Information	3
Indexing/Abstracting	0
Information Systems & Technology	7
Information Literacy	4
Liaison	3
Outreach Community Development	3
Programming	8
Prospect Management	0
Records / Information Management	7
Reference/Information Services	17
Research / Consultation	5
Scholarly Communication	0
Teacher-Librarian	2
Web Content Development	2
Other	3
	107

Other options include:

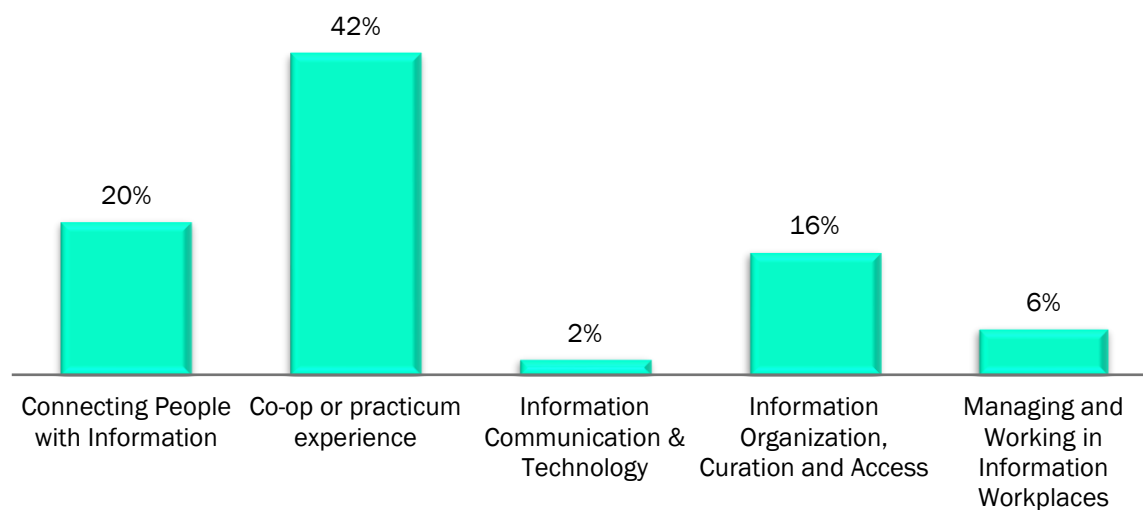Licensing

Legal Librarian

Digitization

Bar chart values (left to right):
- Reference/Info Services — 16%
- Cataloging / Metadata — 9%
- Collections Mgnt — 9%
- Programming — 7%
- Administration/Mgnt — 7%
- Info Systems & Technology — 7%
- Records / Info Mgnt — 7%
- Archives — 6%
- Comm. & Public Relations — 6%
- Research / Consultation — 5%
- Info Literacy — 4%
- Database Mgnt — 3%
- Govt. Info — 3%
- Liaison — 3%
- Outreach Community Dev. — 3%
- Teacher-Librarian — 2%
- Web Content Dev. — 2%
- Access to Info / Privacy Officer — 1%
- Copyright — 1%
- Data Librarian — 1%
- E-Resources — 1%

9. Did you participate in Co-op?
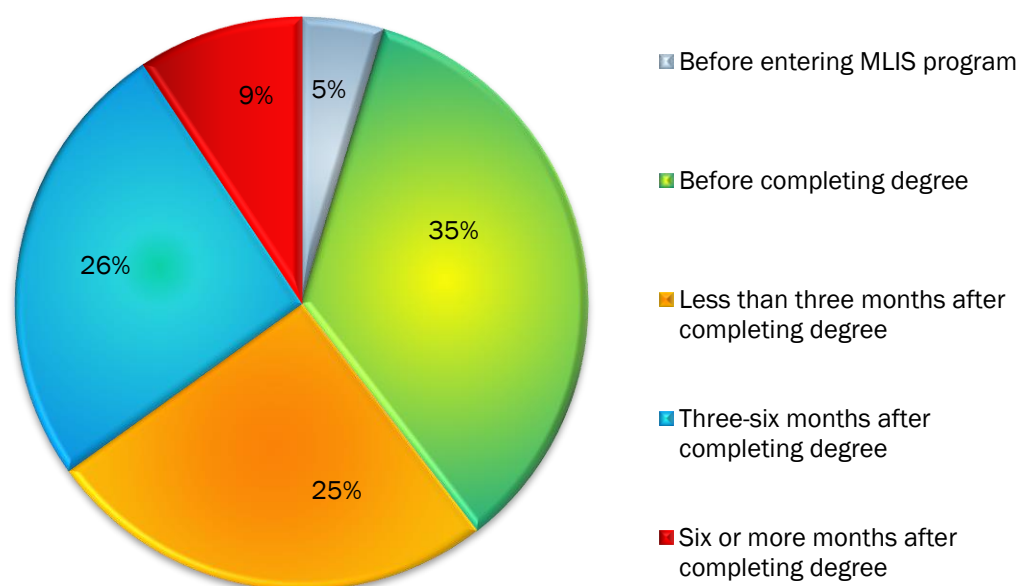
	Count
Yes	29
No	14
	43

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	10
Co-op or practicum experience	21
Information Communication & Technology	1
Information Organization, Curation and Access	8
Information Policy	0
Managing and Working in Information Workplaces	3
	43

Bar chart:
- Connecting People with Information: 20%
- Co-op or practicum experience: 42%
- Information Communication & Technology: 2%
- Information Organization, Curation and Access: 16%
- Managing and Working in Information Workplaces: 6%

11. When did you obtain employment?

	Count
Before entering MLIS program	2
Before completing degree	15
Less than three months after completing degree	11
Three-six months after completing degree	11
More than six months after completing degree	4
	43

Pie chart:
- Before entering MLIS program: 5%
- Before completing degree: 35%
- Less than three months after completing degree: 25%
- Three-six months after completing degree: 26%
- Six or more months after completing degree: 9%

12. Location of Placements

	Counts	%
Alberta	4	
British Columbia Saskatchewan	6	
Manitoba	2	
Ontario	26	
Nova Scotia	1	
Canada	*3	
International	**1	
	43	

* 3 respondents only listed Canada as the location of their current employment

** California is the only reported location outside of Canada.

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

	Counts
Working in another field	3
Seeking employment in the library/information field	5
Pursuing a further degree in another field	1
Other	2