



Librarian

SALARY RANGE (2017): \$49,000–\$78,000

I know exactly where to find the information you require. I select, develop, catalogue and classify library resources in a way that ensures ease and efficiency. I answer questions, direct library users and manage the data they are looking for. I always have an answer at hand.

The Tip: Be different and do one thing every year that causes people to ask, “So, why did you do that?”

PRIORITY KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS:

Advanced Research & Analysis Skills

- Formulating research questions
- Ability to critically analyze literature
- Ability to develop and execute qualitative research
- Ability to synthesize key themes from multiple sources

Contextual Knowledge

- Knowledge of human behaviour
- Understanding of context and values of audiences
- Essential understanding of topics and themes as they relate to an audience

Advanced Communication Skills

- Formulate and defend positions
- Sensitivity to how communications is shaped by circumstances, authorship and intended audience
- Formulate and defend positions
- Apply written vocabulary to audience

Evidence-based Storytelling Skills

- Ability to use research to develop an evidence-based story
- Ability to generate story ideas
- Ability to identify target audiences
- Ability to create compelling narratives across media

Additional Skills

- Excel in defined core transferable skills with a focus on transdisciplinary systems thinking, adaptive thinking, communication, organizational and interpersonal skills
- Expertise in knowledge management and information sciences

BUILDING BLOCK EXPERIENCES:

Education & Learning:

- Bachelor of Arts (English)
- Master of Library & Information Science
- Ongoing professional development

I've always loved working with children and teaching. I decided to pursue an English degree to develop my core research and written communications skills and to provide me options for graduate school as I was uncertain whether I wanted to do a Bachelor of Education or a Master of Library & Information Science. In my final year of my English degree, I decided to become a professional librarian.

Employment Experiences:

- Worked at the local public library from age 15. I held progressively more advanced positions in different departments to learn the operations of a library.
- Was a camp counsellor for two summers in university. In my second summer I was a coordinator with a staff of eight counsellors.
- Teacher’s Assistant (TA) in the U.K. for 12 months
- I was a virtual reference intern with the [Virtual Librarian Service](#)

Being a full-time librarian is rare, as many positions are part time. I knew I needed to differentiate myself from my peers who had identical educational backgrounds. My combination of volunteering, plus my work with children as a camp counsellor and TA differentiated me from my competitors.

Community Experiences:

- Volunteered at the local public library from age 12. I was hired part time when I was 15.
- On the board of a literacy non-profit.

Volunteering in the library system created great opportunities for me to build relationships in the industry and diversify my contextual experiences.

Contextual Experiences:

- I took a year off from university to become a teacher’s assistant in an elementary school in the U.K.
- I traveled to 14 countries

My parents thought I was crazy to take a year off school and move to the U.K. for work. I worked for basically minimum wage and lived in a dorm room, but the experience was invaluable. My goal was to test-drive if I wanted to become a teacher. Though I loved it, it confirmed my desire to pursue a career as a librarian.

Relationships:

- I had senior professional mentors in the library from a young age

My professional mentors have made a huge impact on my career. My guides were the librarians I worked alongside from age 12 and they supported my key decisions later on. They were the ones that recommended English as a major and recommended taking a year off to work as a TA overseas. They also were my references to get into graduate school and ultimately I was hired full time by one of my mentors following graduation with my Master’s degree.