

University of Pittsburgh

Library and Information Science



School of Information Sciences

Connecting People, Information, and Technology



Welcome from the Library and Information Science Faculty

Making the decision to enroll in the Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) degree program is the first step toward a challenging career as a librarian or archivist.

We, the faculty, are proud of our programs and their national and international reputation and believe that the resources of the University of Pittsburgh and the School of Information Sciences (SIS) make our graduate programs among the finest in the country. More importantly, we are committed to working with you to plan a course of study matched to your career objectives and to helping you develop a successful career.

We offer a curriculum designed to provide you with a foundation in professional knowledge and to build the competencies you need for careers in academic, public, school, special libraries and archives, as well as with businesses and industry.

Our research and teaching interests range from the traditions of service to the applications of technology, and you will work closely with one of us whose expertise and interests most closely match your career goals.

Your experience at the School of Information Sciences will be more than simply attending classes. You will be joining a community of learners. You will have opportunities for specializations and field placements in which you will learn from experienced professionals. You will enjoy many opportunities for intellectual, professional, and personal development. Developing skills in using new technologies, participating in seminars and colloquia with respected individuals in the field, interacting with faculty and visiting scholars, and contributing as a member of student chapters of professional organizations will all help you develop into a well-rounded professional.

Of all our resources, we believe the greatest are our students and distinguished alumni. We look forward to welcoming you personally!

To meet us individually, visit our Web pages at www.sis.pitt.edu.

"I'm a senior market analyst at Federated Investors responsible for research using the Internet and various financial databases, as well as Factiva, Lexis-Nexis, and other subscriber databases on current market trends and specific product trends. I've developed a resource library for the market research and analysis group available to our employees via an intranet.

"I'm active in the Special Libraries Association and served as president of the Pittsburgh chapter in 2002 and maintain its Web site. I also mentor MLIS students because I think it's important for students to work with professionals during their studies."

Kim Gregory, MLIS 1998
Cybrarian,
Senior market analyst,
Federated Investors



Graduate Programs in Library and Information Science

Ranked third in a recent survey by *U.S. News & World Report*, the Master of Library and Information Science program is accredited by the American Library Association (ALA).

The degree programs in library and information science are ranked in the top 10 nationally in all categories (master's and doctoral programs, research, and leadership) by library administrators and educators. From

its founding in 1901 as the Training School for Children's Librarians at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, the MLIS program represents a continuous tradition of excellence in the education of library and information professionals. You will participate in a wide range of educational experiences that will prepare you to be a leader in the professional community of librarians, archivists, and information specialists.

Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS): On Campus and Online Options

You can complete the MLIS degree, a 36-credit program, in one year of full-time study (three terms) or as many as four years of part-time study on campus. The FastTrack MLIS option combines Web-based distance learning and limited on-campus educational experiences, and you can earn the MLIS degree in two years (six terms) in this program.

Certificate of Advanced Study (CAS)

If you have earned your MLIS degree and want to advance your career, this 24-credit certificate allows you to design an individualized program with your advisor focused on your objectives.

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

If your career goal is to become a researcher and teacher of library and information science or an administrator of a large library or archive, the PhD degree program in library and information science prepares you by developing your understanding of the content, methods, research, theories, and values of librarianship, communications, and information science.

Continuing Professional Development

If you want to develop or master a specific competency, you can enroll in a continuing professional development workshop offered online or during the summer term on campus.

For more information on degree and certificate programs, visit us online at www.sis.pitt.edu.

"I was looking for a program I could start and finish while at home raising our three young children. My instructors were very professional and were very knowledgeable about the subjects they taught. I think this was because most of them had worked in the field and had firsthand knowledge."

Moira Tyrell, FastTrack, MLIS 2003

Hill Air Force Base, Utah

"I worked as a full-time library technician, and the distance education program gave me an opportunity to earn the professional credentials needed to be hired as an academic librarian while keeping this paying position. I enjoyed the on-campus weekends with my fellow FastTrack students and developed several good relationships."

Bill Yurvati, FastTrack, MLIS 2003

Rohrbach Library,
Kutztown University



Specializations



Archives and Records Management

The Archives and Records Management specialization is one of the leading programs of its kind in the United States and Canada. You will gain a thorough understanding of archival and records management theory, principles, and practices and become an expert in records and record-

keeping systems, the evolution of new technologies, media preservation, and interdisciplinary research. You will participate in a mentored professional experience that correlates with your course work in one or more of a wide range of local institutions that serve as learning laboratories. Please contact Richard Cox: rcox@mail.sis.pitt.edu.

Preservation Management

The newly expanded Preservation Management specialization offers you the opportunity to focus your studies on the preservation of library and archival collections, particularly electronic media; archives and records management, with an emphasis on moving image archives; intellectual property; and the social contexts of information creation, access, and use. You will have the opportunity to participate in a mentored professional experience in preservation that correlates with your course work. Please contact Karen Gracy: kgracy@mail.sis.pitt.edu.

Digital Libraries and Information Management (DLIM)

Digital libraries represent what is arguably the most

important development in librarianship since the introduction of machine-readable cataloging systems, and career possibilities are growing. The collaborative DLIM with Carnegie Mellon University, a 48-credit program, focuses on three key areas—information architecture, digital document design and database design, and implementation—as well as librarianship’s core concerns. Please contact Christinger Tomer: ctomer@mail.sis.pitt.edu.

Medical Librarianship and Informatics

As the top-ranked program of its kind in the latest *U.S. News & World Report*, the Medical Librarianship and Informatics specialization offers an integrated learning experience of course work and practicum opportunities in a University and city rich in top-ranked hospitals and healthcare programs and institutions. The curriculum is designed to support the concept that medical librarians and medical managers are team players in the integrated information environments of modern medicine. Please contact Ellen Detlefsen: ellen@mail.sis.pitt.edu.

School Library Certification Program

If you want a career in which you are an active partner in helping students learn—kindergartners through seniors in high school—the School Library Certification

“I’m very proud that I went to the No. 1 ranked school for medical librarianship, earned the MLIS degree in one year, and got a great job a few months after I graduated.

“Pittsburgh is full of hospitals, so SIS students have access to lots of healthcare facilities and opportunities and can tailor their career objectives to a variety of healthcare sites in this exciting and dynamic field.”

Nancy Tannery, *MLS 1995*

Assistant Director for Information Services, Health Sciences Library System, University of Pittsburgh



program offers three options to match your career objective. If you hold a Pennsylvania Department of Education teaching certificate, choose the endorsement option. If you want to earn an initial teaching certificate, choose the intern option. If you hold a valid certificate in library science, K-12, and have five years of experience working as a school librarian, consider the supervisor of library science program. Please contact Mary Kay Biagini: mbiagini@mail.sis.pitt.edu.

Services to Children and Youth

Librarians who work with young people in schools and public libraries have the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of the youth they serve. Course work in resources and services for children and young adults, storytelling, and a field experience in one of the many outstanding public libraries in the Pittsburgh region provide you with thorough preparation for your career. Graduates provide services to children and the adults who serve them in schools, public libraries, museums, publishing companies, and education agencies. Please contact Margaret Kimmel: mkimmel@mail.sis.pitt.edu.

For more information on these specializations, please visit us online at www.sis.pitt.edu.

FastTrack MLIS Degree Program

Your Schedule, Your Career, and Your Life

If you're interested in a career in the information professions but are too busy to put your current job or family on hold while you further your education, then the FastTrack MLIS program may be just for you. The program is designed to meet the needs of highly motivated, independent learners seeking careers as public, academic, school, medical, and special librarians. You can earn the ALA-accredited MLIS degree in two years (six terms) if you can learn effectively outside the traditional classroom setting, manage time well, and make information technology an ally in learning while balancing family and work obligations.

In the FastTrack MLIS program, you will learn via Web-based asynchronous course delivery; CD-ROM delivery of course and program-related materials; and synchronized, real-time conferencing for interactive sessions between instructor and students and among students, blended with an on-campus learning experience once each term. Please contact Susan Alman: salman@mail.sis.pitt.edu.



"I had worked as a para-professional in several departments at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, and Professor Emeritus E.J. Josey constantly encouraged me to pursue my MLIS degree. Completing the degree gave me a wide array of technology skills combined with a deep appreciation for the ethical and professional responsibilities of librarians. I'm now enrolled in the PhD program researching cultural implications in library and information science distance education programs."

Elizabeth Jean Brumfield,
MLIS 2002; current student in PhD program Career Center, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh



"I chose to work in youth services for the variety, the daily contact with interesting and interested patrons, and the creativity needed to present programs from storytimes to puppet shows. My branch library is one of the busiest in the metro Denver area. On Sundays it is not unusual for 2,000 patrons to visit in five hours, and 50 percent of our circulation is in the Children's Department. While I was a student at SIS studying to become a children's librarian, I created PUBYAC, a listserv that now has thousands of subscribers working with children and young adults in public libraries."

Shannon VanHemert

MLS 1993

Head Librarian,
Children's Department,
Columbine Library,
Jefferson County
Public Library, Colorado

Children's Librarians

Using his nationally syndicated television program *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*, Fred Rogers encouraged children to use their imagination and helped countless youngsters build self-esteem and overcome life's challenges for more than three decades.

Professor Margaret Kimmel, who served as a consultant to Rogers for more than 18 years before his death in 2003, remembers a sign that hung on the wall of his office which read: What is essential is invisible to the eye.

"Fred Rogers lived that ideal. It's not what you're like on the outside; it's what you're like on the inside. Our faculty members care about our students and help them develop their talents. We care about achieving our mission—helping people use information to make lives better."

Financial Aid

Each term the faculty awards financial aid to outstanding full-time students in the form of graduate student assistantships and scholarships. These awards are competitive and granted on the basis of academic achievement and financial need.

Deadlines for Applying for Financial Aid:

Summer Term: January 15

Fall Term: January 15

Spring Term: September 15

Consult the SIS Web site (www.sis.pitt.edu) for application forms and additional information.

Placement

Our graduates pursue careers in management, public service, and information technology positions (in academic, public, and school libraries and archives) and in business, industry, and health care. Some recent alumni hold positions at:

New York Academy of Medicine

Widener Library at Harvard University

U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum

Library of Congress

U.S. National Archives and Records
Administration

Newsweek

Faculty with their network of professional contacts will help you explore job opportunities in your chosen area of specialization.



Rankings

A recent *U.S. News & World Report* ranked the 48 master's degree programs in library and information science in the United States that are accredited by the American Library Association. The University of Pittsburgh's MLIS program ranked third nationally, and its specializations consistently ranked among the best in the nation.

University of Pittsburgh Rankings

Best Graduate School, Library Science 3rd

Library Science Specializations:

Health Librarianship 1st

Information Systems 3rd

Services for Children and Youth 4th

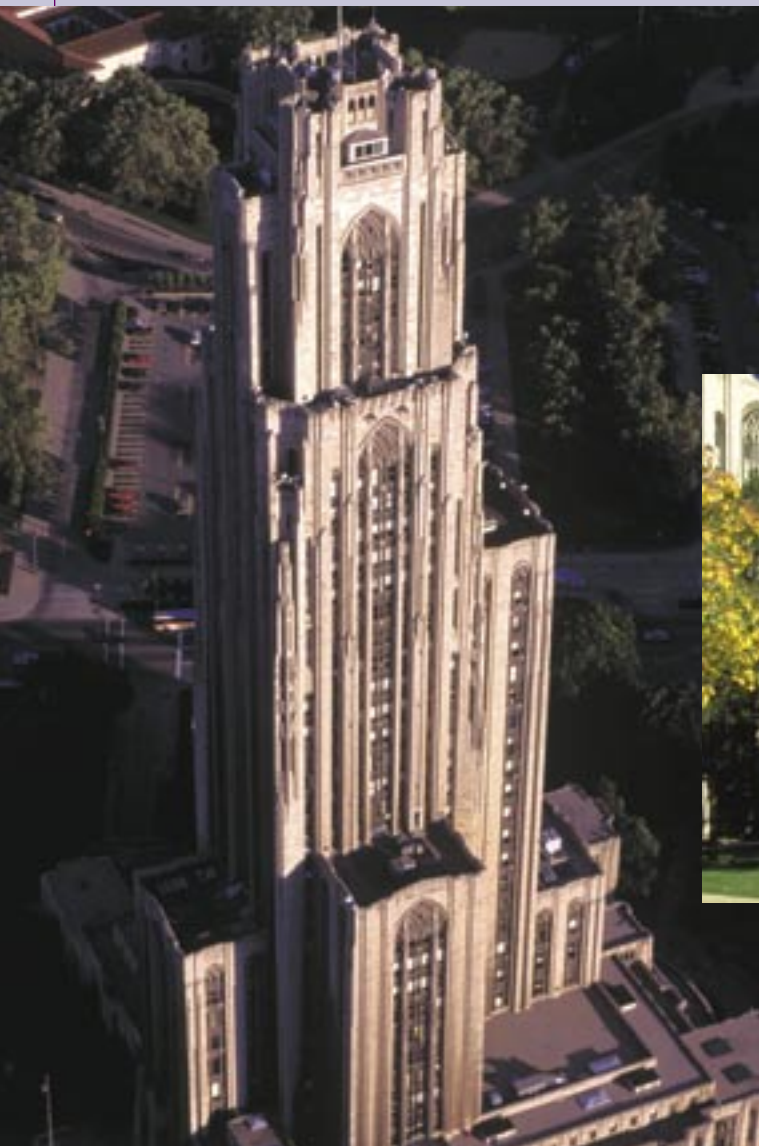
Archives and Preservation 4th

"When I was an academic librarian, I was a chameleon of sorts—one foot in historical stewardship, another in cutting edge technology, a third in instruction and a fourth in the effective management of resources. Unlike the chameleon, however, I had to adapt to stand out, not blend in. Our library was the campus information center.

"In using electronic databases, I've mastered the vagaries of mutated Boolean systems, rapidly changing platforms, and software upgrade migrations

"I'm interested in preservation in addition to acquiring new material. Preservation is not exclusive to the museum community or the large research university; it's a primary component of our total asset management package."

Robert Bleil, MLS 1996
former Head of Public Services, Juniata College
doctoral candidate,
Penn State University





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