Public Libraries

Public Libraries is an area of professional practice centered on serving the needs of public libraries and their constituencies. Students will choose this area of emphasis if they enjoy working with patrons of all ages and backgrounds, interacting with civic groups and public officials, and managing diverse collections.

Public librarianship tends to divide into three broad categories of professional practice: user services, technical services, and technology services. User services include but are not limited to administration, reference work, and community outreach. Technical services practice includes but is not limited to cataloging, and collection development. Technology services practice includes but is not limited to information technology management, such as the library web site, social media platforms, and facilitating data collection and analysis.

In addition to the core courses required of all MLIS degree-seeking students, the following courses are among those recommended for those with an interest in public Librarianship. This is not an exhaustive list, as special topics courses may also be of interest. Discuss course selection and availability with your assigned academic advisor. The management course LS 530: Public Libraries is recommended for students interested in this area. LS 570: Internship in Library and Information Studies is also recommended for any students who do not already possess practical experience in public libraries.

User Services Electives:

LS 507 User Centered Information Services

LS 515 Information Ethics

LS 520 Early Childhood Materials and Story Programs

LS 521 Materials and Services for Children

LS 522 Materials and Services for Young Adults

LS 523 Materials and Services for Adults

LS 541 Youth Programming

LS 543 Traditional and Digital Storytelling

LS 580 Outreach to Diverse Populations

Technical Services Electives:

LS 505 Collection Development

LS 506 Cataloging

LS 566 Metadata and Semantic Web Fundamentals

Technology Services Electives:

LS 524 Project Management in Information Settings

LS 581 Universal Design for Information Technologies

For additional information about Public Librarianship please contact Dr. Jeff Weddle, Dr. Jamie Naidoo, Dr. Bharat Mehra or speak with your academic advisor.