

## Survey of Library and Information Studies Alumni (2009 to 2013)

To obtain a clearer picture of the progress the Department of Library and Information Studies has made over the last several years, DLIS recently conducted a survey of recent graduates from the program. The results, summarized below, offer our graduates' views on the preparation provided by our program for the information workplace, giving us information to make better decisions about curriculum, pedagogy, advisement, and other support that may aid our LIS students to pursue their goals.

The Alumni Survey was conducted by e-mail from April 14, 2014 to May 2, 2014. Requests for participation were sent to 513 graduates, with 187 respondents (36% response rate).

Highlights of the survey:

- Demographics of respondents
  - 72% female
  - 43% between 26 and 30 years old
- 90% of respondents are currently employed
  - 28% in an academic library
  - 23% in a public library
  - 21% in a school library
  - 10% in other information settings
- Focus of studies during program
  - 34% of respondents had focused their studies during their program on academic librarianship
  - 34% focused their studies on reference
  - 31% focused their studies on school library media certification
  - 27% focused their studies on public librarianship
  - 22% focused their studies on young adult/teen services
- Job search length
  - 27% of respondents had an LIS job at graduation
  - 28% had an LIS job within three months of graduating
- On the job
  - 83% of respondents use their LIS knowledge and skills in their positions
  - 63% work in a non-management capacity
  - 39% supervise paraprofessionals, 40% supervise students and temporary workers
  - 85% think they will still be working in LIS in three years
  - 92% are satisfied overall with LIS as a career
- Professional and post-graduate activities
  - 67% of respondents have attended at least one professional conference since graduation
  - 74% have held membership in a professional organization
  - 53% keep connected to the program through the listserv, 52% keep in touch with other students, and 34% use social media such as Facebook or LinkedIn to keep connected to the program

- Views of LIS Program
  - 21% of respondents viewed their overall program experience as excellent, while 43% viewed their experience as good and 27% viewed their experience as fair
  - 54% felt that they were very well or well prepared for their LIS careers, and 34% felt that they were adequately prepared
  - 93% agreed that the program provided them with information seeking skills and knowledge
  - 86% agreed that the program provided them with information organization skills and knowledge
  - 85% agreed that the program provided them with research and evaluation skills and knowledge
  - 81% agreed that the program provided them with collaboration skills and knowledge
  - 76% agreed that the program provided them with information technology skills and knowledge
  - 73% agreed that the program provided them with problem solving skills and knowledge
  - 69% agreed that the program provided them with public service skills and knowledge
  - 65% agreed that the program provided them with management skills and knowledge
  - 64% agreed that the program provided them with instructional skills and knowledge
  - 62% agreed that the program provided them with leadership skills and knowledge
  - 61% agreed that the program provided them with advocacy skills and knowledge
  - 34% agreed that the program provided them with budgeting skills and knowledge
  - 86% agreed that the program provided them with skills that they can apply on the job
  - 63% agreed that the program provided them with a realistic understanding of what it is like to work in the information field
- Course delivery
  - 21% of respondents found online course delivery to be very effective; 31%, moderately effective; 34% somewhat effective
  - 56% of found online course delivery to be very convenient, and 20% moderately convenient
  - 52% found in classroom course delivery to be very effective, and 32% moderately effective
  - 14% found in classroom course delivery to be very convenient, 52% moderately convenient, and 20% somewhat convenient
  - 58% did some (less than half) of their coursework online
- Capstone experiences
  - 73% of respondents did practicums in an information or library setting
  - 21% completed portfolios

For inquiries about this survey, please contact [Benjamin Poremski](#), Accreditation Assistant, DLIS.