

**LIS Graduate Exit Survey October 2013**  
**Presentation of Results**  
**October 15, 2013**

*Survey Details:*

**No. of Respondents:** 13 (16 total submissions, 3 submissions with no content)  
**Method:** Select Survey online survey tool, sent to list of 79 targeted graduates from 2012-13 academic year  
**Survey Status:** Closed  
**Launched Date:** 09/24/2013  
**Closed Date:** 10/15/2013

*Request for participation:*

Dear [Graduate],

Congratulations on your recent graduation from our program! I'm delighted to hear of your success, and hope that your job search is going well. Please do keep in touch, and let us know your news from time to time.

I'm writing to ask that you provide us with some feedback on your experiences in the MLS program, so that we may know where we're doing a good job, and work towards making improvements where needed. The survey should take only 10 minutes or less—please help us create positive MLS experiences for current and future students. The link to the survey is:

<https://gseweb.gse.buffalo.edu/gse-survey/TakeSurvey.aspx?EID=981B4562B865B05m4B39mB6459B082>

If you do not wish to respond to this survey, please click on the link below to decline:

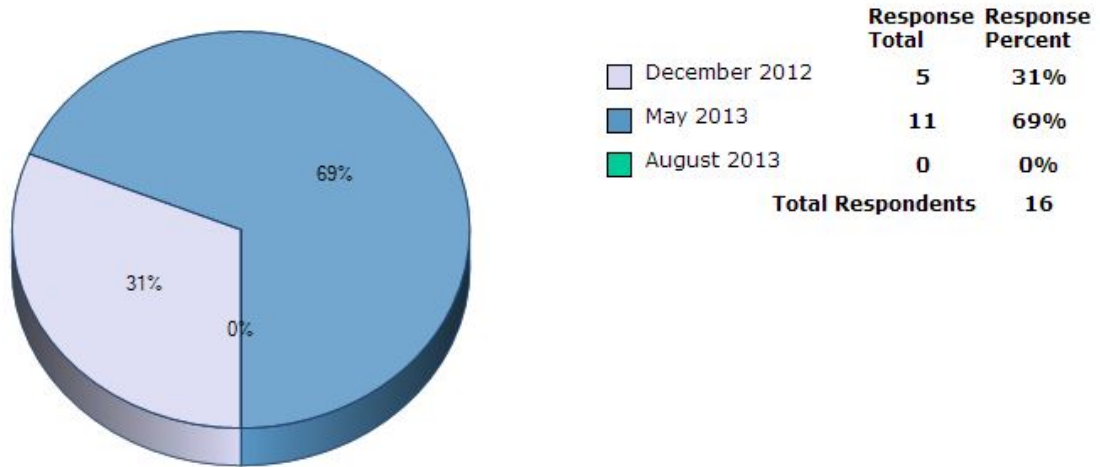
<https://gseweb.gse.buffalo.edu/gse-survey/DeclineSurvey.aspx?EID=981B4562B865B05m4B39mB6459B082>

Sincere Thanks,  
Dr. Heidi Julien  
Chair, Department of Library & Information Studies

Results:

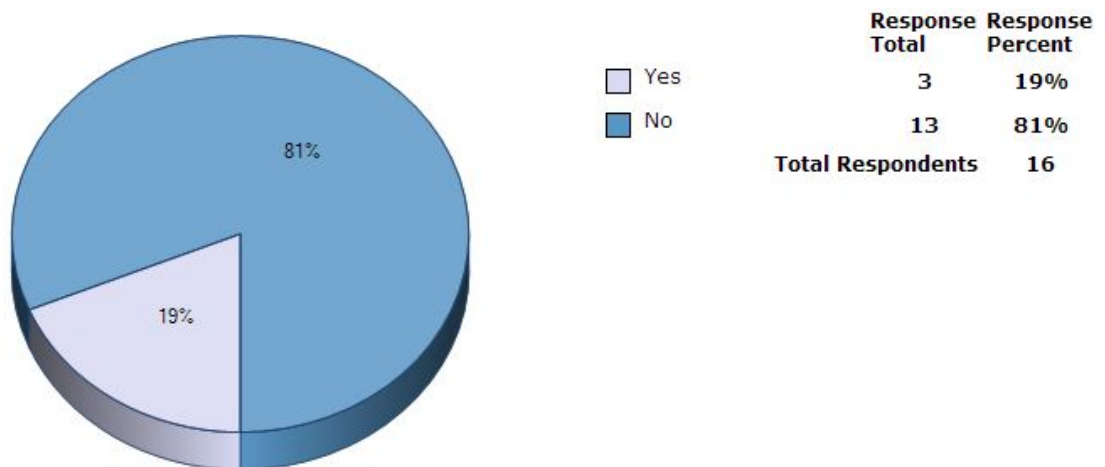
Question No.	Question Abbreviation	Question	Question Format
1	graddate	I graduated in:	Pull-down (Dec. 2012 or May 2013 or Aug. 2013)

1. graddate



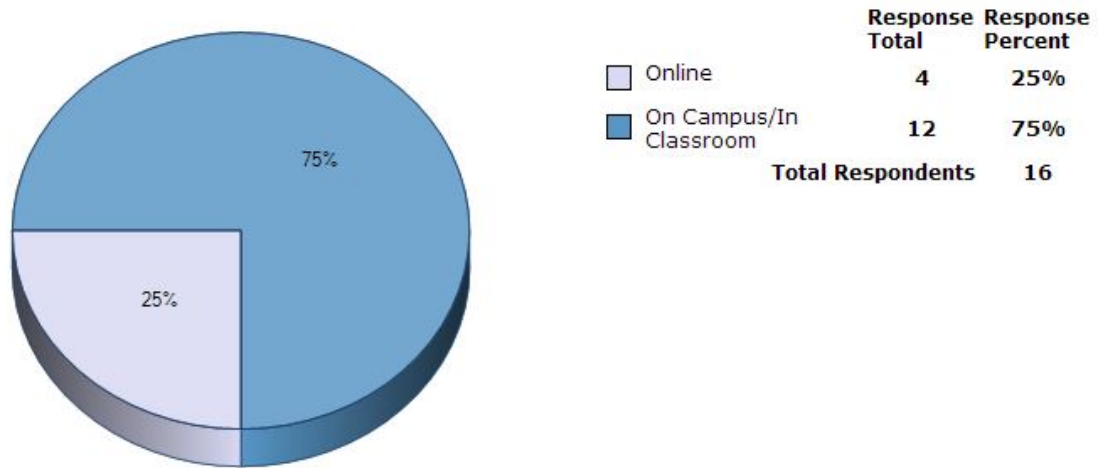
Question No.	Question Abbreviation	Question	Question Format
2	slms	I was in the School Library Media Specialist (SLMS) specialization.	Yes/No

2. slms



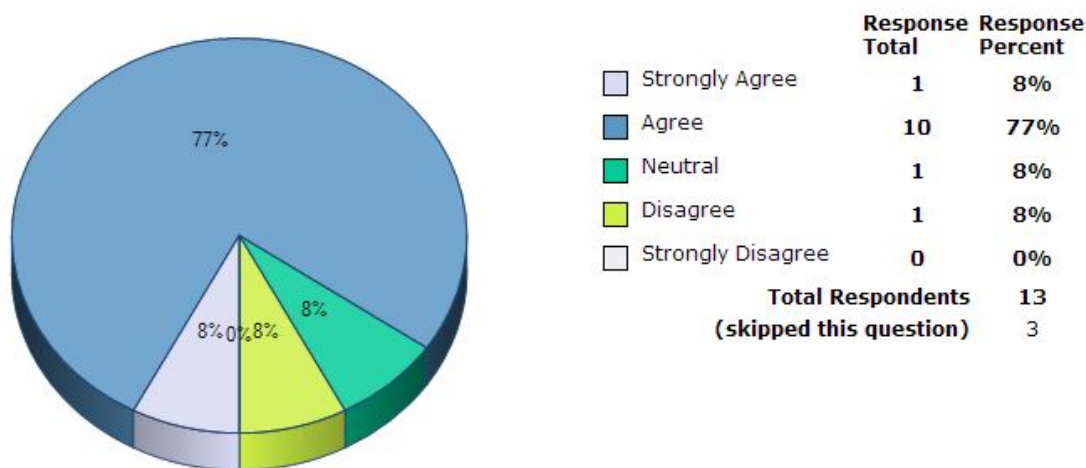
Question No.	Question Abbreviation	Question	Question Format
3	onlinestudent	My coursework was primarily (online or on campus/in classroom).	Pull-down (Online or On Campus/In-Classroom)

### 3. onlinestudent



Question No.	Question Abbreviation	Question	Question Format
4	instructqual	The quality of instruction in my program was excellent.	Likert Scale (Strongly Agree/Agree/Neutral/Disagree/Strongly Agree)
5	instructqualcom	Please comment on the above question (4).	Comment Box

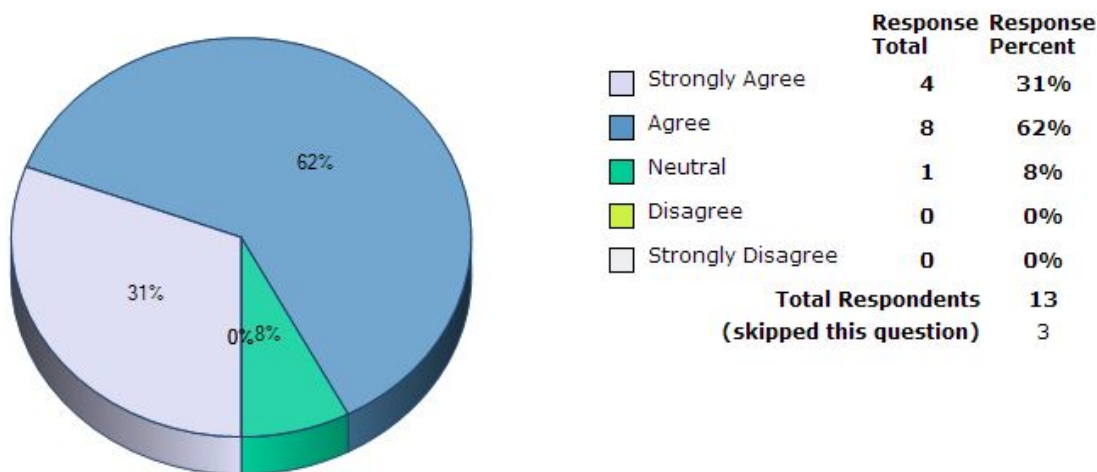
**4.** instructqual



<b>5. Comments: <i>The quality of instruction in my program was excellent.</i></b>
For the most part, my instructors were fantastic.
I definitely disagree with this. I found most of the lectures and professors to be lacking- classes (especially online) were disorganized and confusing. In certain classes in-class, I thought the lectures were irrelevant and the professors weren't all that professional.
I have mixed feelings about the program. I walked away knowing what I needed to because I put in the extra effort to be exposed to as much as possible. But, I learned more in my internships than I did in any course.
I liked many of my professors. They taught me in a way I could learn and with real world knowledge.
In general the education I received was extremely beneficial in my chosen specialization. However there were some classes that I would have liked to take, like Research Methods, which were never offered while I was in the program.
Most of the professors were excellent but some did not seem to care for the on-line students - seemed to think we were a problem and didn't want to provide us with lectures or quality instruction.
Overall the quality of instruction was good. I do think that the quality of instruction of the seated courses were generally better than the online courses.
Some coursework seemed redundant and unapproachable due to the fact it was distance learning. Many things were beneficial but I did not appreciate posting unnecessary things in message boards and responding to others posts as well. It just did not appeal to me.
The instructors were able to draw upon their various experiences in professional work, but frequently devoted too much time to digressions unrelated to coursework. The courses should have been taught at a higher degree of difficulty.

Question No.	Question Abbreviation	Question	Question Format
6	facultyinteract	My interactions with faculty members were generally positive.	Likert Scale (Strongly Agree/Agree/Neutral/Disagree/Strongly Agree)
7	facultyinteractcom	Please comment on the above question (6).	Comment Box

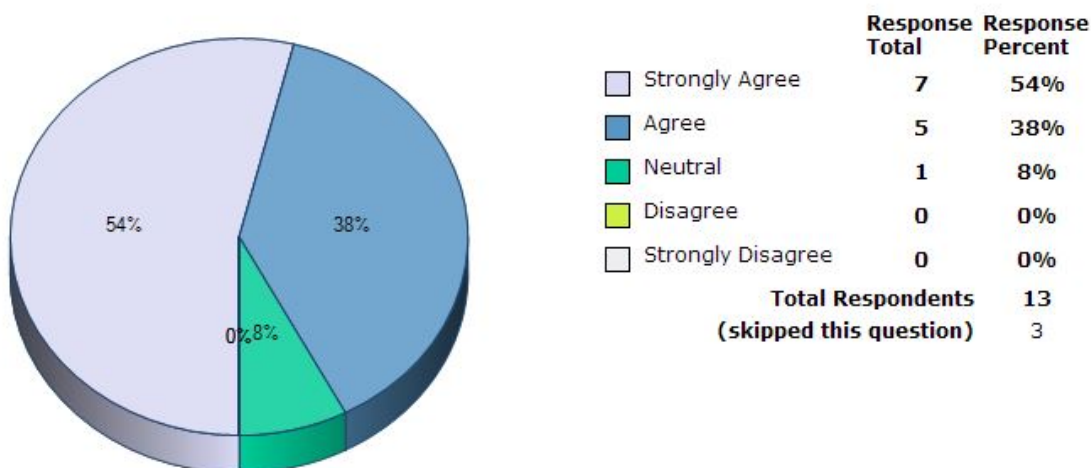
**6.** facultyinteract



<b>7. Comments: <i>My interactions with faculty members were generally positive.</i></b>
Generally I had much better interactions with the core tenured/tenure-track faculty than the adjunct faculty. Overall I would say I had pretty good interactions with the whole faculty.
Generally it was ok.
I have made some long lasting relationships with the faculty and have nothing but overall positive reviews.
In a classroom setting, my experiences were primarily positive.
Most of my interactions were positive. However some of the Adjunct Faculty members were difficult to get a hold of, especially if they were teaching an on-line class.
The faculty members cared about students and aiding them in their coursework and professional development.
They were friendly, easy going and able to help when I needed it.
When I did interact with faculty the experience was pleasant and worth while.

Question No.	Question Abbreviation	Question	Question Format
8	studentinteract	My interactions with my fellow students were generally positive.	Likert Scale (Strongly Agree/Agree/Neutral/Disagree/Strongly Agree)
9	studentinteractcom	Please comment on the above question (8).	Comment Box

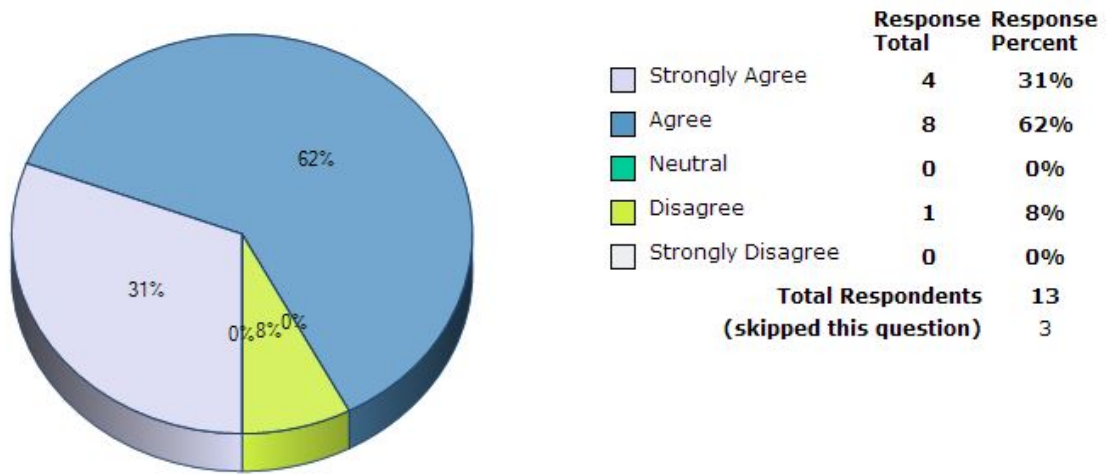
**8.** studentinteract



9. Comments: <i>My interactions with my fellow students were generally positive.</i>
Most of my fellow students were intelligent and interested - there were one or two whom I have no idea how they were accepted.
Since the department is small, I got to know the majority of my fellow students quite well. The student groups in particular creates a tight-knit and supportive student community.
The interactions with fellow students was normally good. I would encourage more diversity in the student body although that is easier said than done. I commend the Graduate School and DLIS for awarding Arthur A. Schomburg fellowships to students belonging to underrepresented groups.
The students are from varied backgrounds and bring their individual strengths to the program, however the requirements for admission to the program are too low and some students are not academically advanced enough and struggle frequently, detracting from the overall quality of the MLS program.

Question No.	Question Abbreviation	Question	Question Format
10	staffinteract	My interactions with department administrative staff were generally positive.	Likert Scale (Strongly Agree/Agree/Neutral/Disagree/Strongly Agree)
11	staffinteractcom	Please comment on the above question (10).	Comment Box

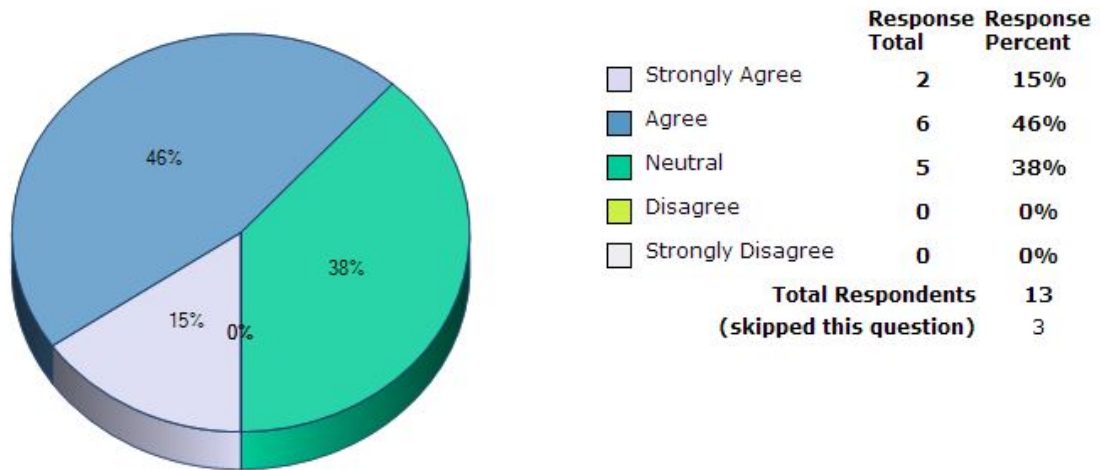
**10.** staffinteract



<b>11. Comments: <i>My interactions with department administrative staff were generally positive.</i></b>
Everything went well.
Never had any issues.
The administrative staff was always responsive and very approachable.
The department administrative staff are always courteous and professional, and willing to work with students on any issues that may arise. They also answered questions promptly and thoroughly.

Question No.	Question Abbreviation	Question	Question Format
12	chairinteract	My interactions with the Department Chair were generally positive.	Likert Scale (Strongly Agree/Agree/Neutral/Disagree/Strongly Agree)
13	chairinteractcom	Please comment on the above question (12).	Comment Box

**12.** chairinteract

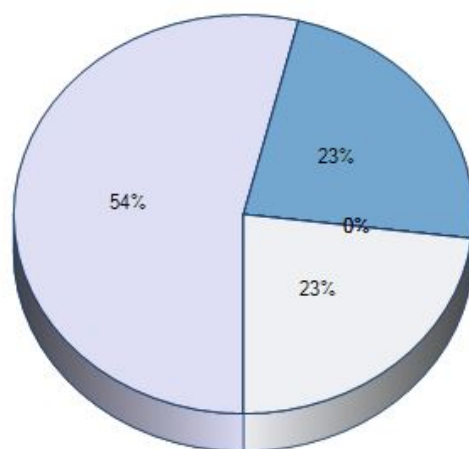


<b>13. Comments: <i>My interactions with the Department Chair were generally positive.</i></b>
I never had an interaction with the Department Chair while in the program
I never personally interacted with any of the Department Chairs.
There was not enough information about the ALA process and how we were seeking re-accreditation.



Question No.	Question Abbreviation	Question	Question Format
14	advisorinfo	I received useful information from my faculty advisor.	Likert Scale (Strongly Agree/Agree/Neutral/Disagree/Strongly Agree)
15	advisorinfocom	Please comment on the above question (14).	Comment Box

#### 14. advisorinfo

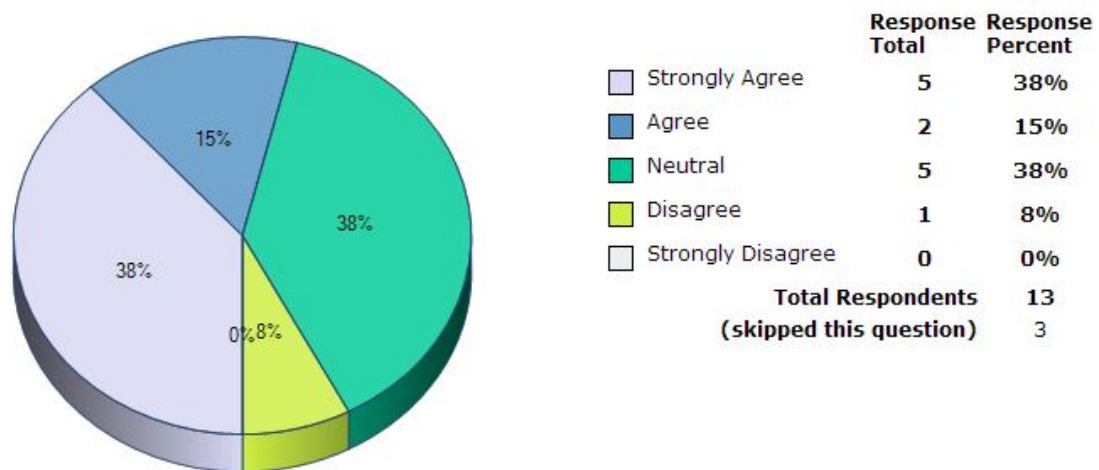


	Response Total	Response Percent
Strongly Agree	7	54%
Agree	3	23%
Neutral	0	0%
Disagree	0	0%
Strongly Disagree	3	23%
<b>Total Respondents (skipped this question)</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>3</b>

15. Comments: <i>I received useful information from my faculty advisor.</i>
Didn't have one for long enough and when I did get one just okayed everything without really looking at it. Didn't really interact with me during my practicum experience and as a result I don't think I got the most out of the experience
I had a good working plan and relationship with my faculty adviser.
My advisor helped pick and choose my classes to tailor my interests.
My faculty advisor provided excellent advice and guidance, and was always willing to meet with me to answer any questions I may have regarding the program or my professional development.
Never spoke or interacted with me at all - couldn't even tell you who that person is/was.

Question No.	Question Abbreviation	Question	Question Format
16	technology	I had access to appropriate specialized library software and related technology to support my educational needs.	Likert Scale (Strongly Agree/Agree/Neutral/Disagree/Strongly Agree)
17	technologycom	Please comment on the above question (16).	Comment Box

### 16. technology



### 17. Comments: *I had access to appropriate specialized library software and related technology to support my educational needs.*

For general core classes, yes. But for many of my electives I was forced to use free trial versions with limited features, and in some cases was merely told what a software was like that I would likely encounter in my chosen field.

I don't know that I ever used specialized library software.

I liked the programs which were offered.

I would have liked greater exposure to actual technologies/ software. A great deal of my education was theoretical, and while theory can be applied to many different things, actual hands on experience would have helped reinforce the concepts.

Not quite sure when I used other software other than Microsoft Office.

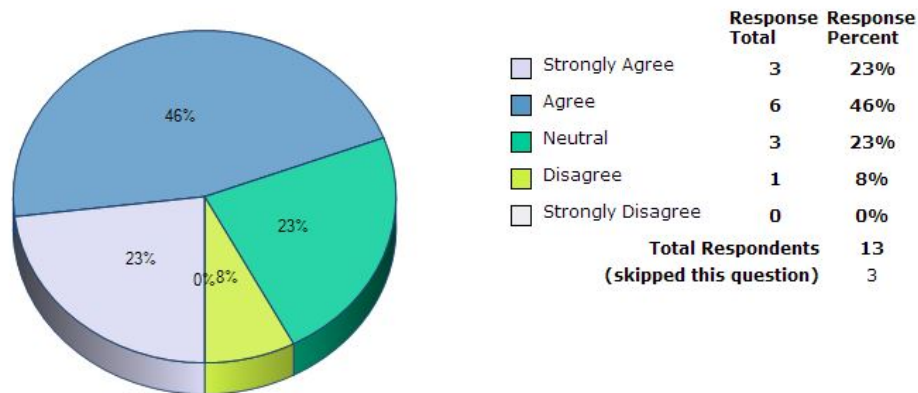
The databases were excellent but I would have liked to have some hands on experience with things like baker and taylor.

The software and technology accessible by the students are excellent.

We did not have access to the Mac lab in the basement of Baldy Hall. Classes that had a computer component to them (where held in the computer lab LIS 506 or 518) should have had Mac computers as well as pc computers for students to use.

Question No.	Question Abbreviation	Question	Question Format
18	preparation	I am prepared to enter the workforce in my chosen field.	Likert Scale (Strongly Agree/Agree/Neutral/Disagree/Strongly Agree)
19	preparationcom	Please comment on the above question (18).	Comment Box

**18.** preparation



**19. Comments : I am prepared to enter the workforce in my chosen field.**

For the most part, yes I was very prepared. Other things would be the technology classes could be more for creating pamphlets, logos, signs, how to use powerpoints for tech classes.

From my own outside of the program work, and my own networking and learning on the job I am able to enter the workforce.

I am prepared to work as a librarian, however there are more jobs in the information professional field that I feel I could have been better prepared for in school.

I feel the program did not provided me with enough opportunities to earn more experience in the field, and now I feel this has hampered my abilities to find a career at this time

I would comment that practicums/directed study should be more encouraged and promoted by the department. Students without much library experience entering the program should be especially encouraged to pursue practicums/directed study. Practical experience is very important when looking for employment.

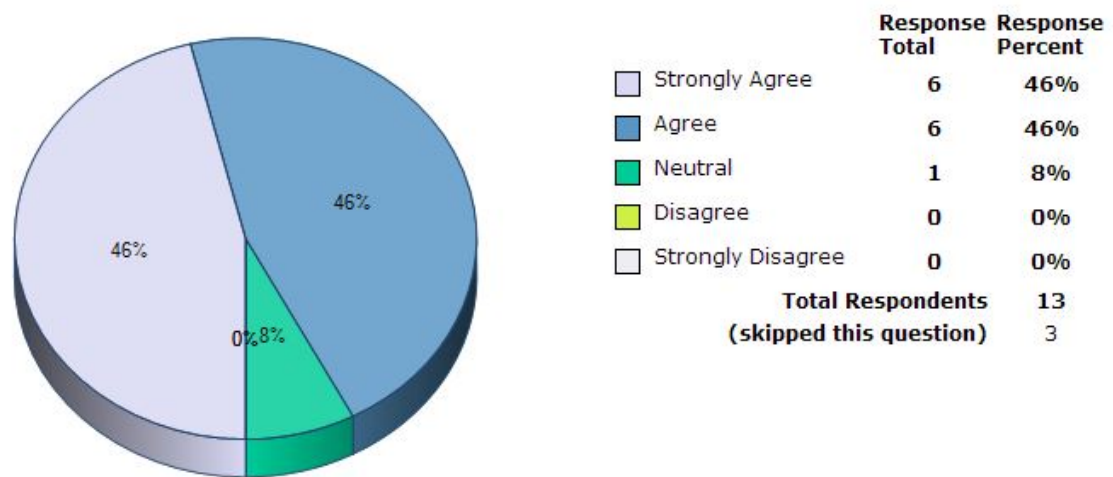
In my current position I feel that I have been prepared for the most part by library school - though more-so by my special projects and internships.

Most preparation only goes so far; I would have benefit from more practical experience such as an internship.

The library field is one in which practitioners learn most by practice. The coursework I completed in the MLS program gave me a strong foundation, but I will feel more confident once I have more hands-on experience in the field.

Question No.	Question Abbreviation	Question	Question Format
20	confidence	I am confident that I will be professionally successful.	Likert Scale (Strongly Agree/Agree/Neutral/Disagree/Strongly Agree)
21	confidencecom	Please comment on the above question (20).	Comment Box

## 20. confidence



## 21. Comments: I am confident that I will be professionally successful.

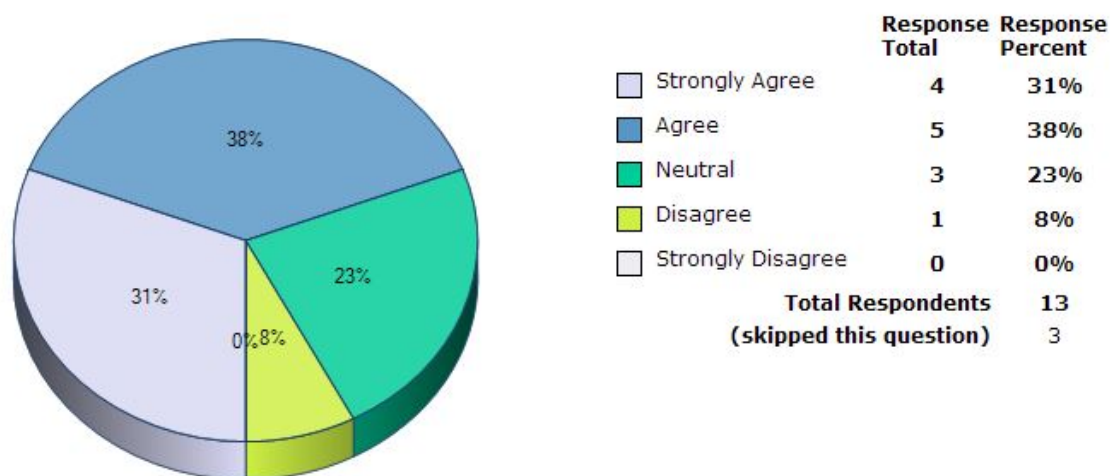
I already am a substitute at 3 area libraries. My skills are in demand.

I believe everyone with any self worth would hope they would be professionally successful after completing their graduate degree.

I believe that I have the ability and flexibility to continue growing as a librarian, and to become successful.

Question No.	Question Abbreviation	Question	Question Format
22	recommend	I would recommend this program to others.	Likert Scale (Strongly Agree/Agree/Neutral/Disagree/Strongly Agree)
23	recommendcom	Please comment on the above question (22).	Comment Box

**22.** recommend



<b>23. Comments: I would recommend this program to others.</b>
I believe there is still much work to be done in the program. More information specialist courses, an encouragement to steer away from more traditional librarian positions, mandatory internship experience, etc.
I can't honestly say that I would recommend library school in general to anyone as of yet. Perhaps once I have a permanent position I will say differently.
I have recommended this program to 2 people already. I was very happy overall.
I love the library setting.
Overall the program provided adequate preparation for me.
Overall the program was very good. In my experience course availability was good and instructors were generally very good. The one thing I would recommend again is an initiative or push for more diversity in the student body, especially for the seated program.
Pretty much every time someone asks me- I say being a librarian is amazing, it's definitely the right field for me- but that if I had a choice I wouldn't do it at UB again.

Question No.	Question Abbreviation	Question	Question Format
24	strengthcomment	What were the major strengths of your program?	Comment Box

24. What were the major strengths of your program?
Attentive professors and a wide surrounding community of information professionals dedicated to mentoring students.
Course availability/scheduling. Instructors. faculty, group projects
General reference
I enjoyed the practicum and my collection development class. I have used what I learned in those two classes more in my current position than anything else.
I thought that the best classes I took were from adjunct. I also think the best thing I did was practicums at real libraries.
Some faculty were very great and approachable, which is a necessity in any program. Being able to access emerging technologies was great as well.
The children's and youth courses were excellent.
The major strengths were: the knowledge of the professors; the focus on projects and not papers; the course texts; the diversity of courses which I was able to take.
The opportunity to work for academic libraries in the area and the ability gain a greater understanding of academic culture through working with DLIS.
The student community and the dedication of faculty and staff to put in the hard work to revive the program and make it great.

Question No.	Question Abbreviation	Question	Question Format
25	suggestions	Do you have any suggestions for improvement?	Comment Box

25. Do you have any suggestions for improvement?
Accreditation-- make sure you keep it! It scared us grad students. We need to shift gears more towards the IT side of the degree. I would have liked more instruction in that instead of just having LIS506.
All classes need taped lectures which online students should listen to - same as going to class
Diversifying the student body.
For distance learning courses (online) look into another format other than UBLearns.
I wish the MLS program at UB would try to get an archives specialization for the program. I took archives courses with professor Tamaro, but we need an archives specialization.
I would like to see less online classes. I feel that we need to interact with our fellow classmates in order to help in the learning process along with interacting with the professors.

More technology classes.
Require collection development and make cataloging a more hands on experience. Require library students to work in one of the UB libraries for a few hours a week.
There needs to be greater involvement from the UB community and Buffalo community at large. Breaking stereotypes will help, and showing that we are still a value to society, even if we no longer serve the traditional role as librarian.
There should be more department oversight into the coursework. Different sections of classes offered by different professors are very different from one another, and there is little cohesion among the coursework. Additionally, department oversight could help to alleviate digressions and tangents unrelated to coursework.

Question No.	Question Abbreviation	Question	Question Format
26	programrefer	How did you find out about the MLS program at UB?	Comment Box

26. Comments: How did you find out about the MLS program at UB?
ALA
Alumni.
Found the program in my sophomore year at UB as an undergrad.
Friends and co-workers.
I am from Buffalo originally.
I completed an MA in Anthropology prior to joining the MLS program, and worked in the Law Library while completing both Master's.
I found out about the MLS program at UB through the ALA website.
My advisor at Canisius College mentioned it
My aunt also received her MLS from UB.
My mother received an MLS in the 70s from UB
Online
The DLIS website.
Word of mouth.

Question No.	Question Abbreviation	Question	Question Format
27	choicereason	Why did you choose UB for your MLS program?	Comment Box

27. Why did you choose UB for your MLS program?
Close to home.
Course availability and scheduling. Practicum and internship opportunities in Buffalo. Funding from fellowship.
I choose UB for the cost and convenience of the program. I also liked that I could finish my MLS quickly(in 11 months).
I felt that it was suited towards my strengths.
I had done my undergrad there.
I was tied to the area at the time.
It did not require a GRE test and the tuition was low. (I know that sounds awful, but it's true.)
It was a state program offered online
Location, and I had already completed an MA at UB.
Location.
Location.
Proximity to home

Question No.	Question Abbreviation	Question	Question Format
28	addlfeedback	Please provide any additional feedback for us below.	Comment Box

28. Please provide any additional feedback for us below.
This survey was ridiculously long and in the future you should try to figure out what the most important information is and only ask those questions. I am thinking one page 10 questions.
The program should be more difficult. The GRE is not required for admittance to the program, even though it is for many other graduate programs at UB. Requiring the GRE and raising admission standards would strengthen the program's academic integrity and make attending class more enjoyable for students who wish to learn difficult concepts.
Perhaps another time.
Just to let you know I have found a job and am now employed at the Mount Vernon Public Library in New York State.