

Alumni Employment Report, Class of 2015

Prepared by Kristin Eschenfelder, Director (Sept 2016)

UW-Madison iSchool Class of 2015 – A Brief Overview

The University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Library and Information Studies (SLIS) graduated 86 master's students in May, August, and December 2015. Twenty-six of the graduates responded to the employment survey. Of respondents, the majority (92%) of responding graduates reported being employed.

The 2015 graduating class had an unusually low response rate to the survey, although response rates have been trending lower for the past six years. This downward trend in responses may stem from a cultural trend of people growing weary of email surveys, or it may stem from *Library Journal* releasing the survey earlier in the summer.

Of respondents, 26% reported finding jobs before graduation and 23% returned to a previous (or ongoing) employer. Most respondents reported working in public or academic libraries, but a significant portion also reported employment in other information environments including government agencies, private industry, non profits and vendors.

The tables below provide further detail about the jobs held by graduates from the class of 2015.

Table 1: Comparative Placement Data 2010-2015 Graduates

Graduation year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Number of graduates (from Graduate School statistics)	93	80	78	96 (71 responses)	73 (39 responses)	86 (26 responses)
Employment rate of respondents				97%	92%	92%
Employed in LIS institution*	66	56	54	58	36	20
Employed in LIS capacity, but not in LIS institution*	--	--	--	--		2
Employed outside LIS field*	--	--	--	11	3	2
Unemployed*	--	--	--	2	1	2
If unemployed, or employed outside of the LIS field, Are you currently seeking employment within the LIS field?	--	--	--	--	2	2 yes 6 no
Student (question dropped 2015)	0	2	0	--	1	--
If Unemployed: Not seeking (question dropped 2012)	3	1	1	--		--
If Unemployed: Seeking (question dropped 2012)	0	1	2	--		--
No response to survey	24	20	21	38	34	58
Survey response rate	74%	75%	73%	60%	53%	30%

* categories added 2014

Table 2: Types of Employers and Salaries for UW-Madison SLIS 2015 graduates as of summer 2016

Graduation year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Known Number employed	66	56	54	58		26
(type of agency)						
Academic library	15	24	13	9	5	7
Other academic unit				3	1	0
Archives	7	2	2	6	5	1
School library	4	4	1	4	3	0
Public Library	22	15	22	17	18	10
Special Library (medical, art, corporate, museum)	2	5	6	2	1	1
Government library (state or federal)*	--	--	--	1	0	1
Other government agency*	--	--	--	1	0	1
Library cooperative/network*	--	--	--		0	0
Vendor (automation, database)*	--	--	--	1	0	1
Nonprofit organization other than a library*	--	--	--		3	1
Private industry*	--	--	--	6	2	2
Unemployed	--	--	--	1	0	0
Other	17	4	13	6	1	0
Mean salary	35524	44709	41140	38304	40357	46135
Median salary	37500	41000	40000	40000	41000	50000
Respondents reporting salary	56	48	39	48	33	10

* category added in 2015

Table 3: Field of Employment of UW-Madison SLIS 2015 graduates as of summer 2016.

	On campus (+ hybrid)	Online	Total
Number of Graduates			86
Employed in LIS institution	17	3	20
Employed in LIS capacity, but not in LIS institution	1	1	2
Employed outside LIS field	2	0	2
Unemployed	0	2	2
If unemployed, or employed outside of the LIS field, Are you currently seeking employment within the LIS field?	1 yes, 3 no	1 yes, 3 no	2 yes, 6 no

Table 4: Breakdown of Employer Type, Time to Employment, Location and Salary by Program Type

	On-campus (+hybrid)	Online	Total
Number Employed			
Full-time/Part-time			
Full-time	13	3	16
Part-time	7	3	10
No response	-	-	-
Permanent/Temporary			
Permanent	11	5	16
Temporary	3	1	4
No response	-	-	-
Type of library/agency:			
Academic library	7	0	7
Other academic unit	0	0	0
Archives	1	0	1
School library	0	0	0
Public library	7	3	10
Special library (medical, art, corporate, museum)	0	1	1
Government library (state or federal)*	1	0	1
Other government agency*	0	1	1
Library cooperative/network*	0	0	0
Vendor (automation, database)*	1	0	1
Nonprofit org other than library*	1	0	1
Private industry *	2	0	2
Other	0	1	1
Not reported			
Time to Find a Job			
Returned to previous job/employer	4	2	6
Found job prior to graduation	5	2	7
Location	Wisconsin: 7 Other locations 1 each CA, DC, IL, IA, CO, NV, SD, MO, MN Others not reported	Wisconsin 2 Others not reported	
Salary: FT Equivalent			
Average	15.19	24.14	
Median			
Salary: FT Only			
Mean	45,169	50,000	46,135
Median	49,175	50,000	50,000

Total reported	8	2	10
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