

The Law Librarianship Program

The Master of Library and Information Science Law Librarianship program at the University of Washington Information School (iSchool) is the premier program in the country. Located in one of the United States' most dynamic tech-oriented cities, the program offers a combination of technology, teaching and research in preparation for a stellar career in law librarianship.

Over the course of four consecutive quarters (10 months), students will learn to combine their legal backgrounds with powerful new skills and knowledge to enter the field of law librarianship. A combination of a rigorous academic schedule coupled with practical work experience develops graduates who are highly prepared for the challenges and opportunities of law librarianship.

Curriculum

Accredited by the American Library Association (ALA), the 45 quarter-credit curriculum blends a strong theoretical foundation in the principles of information science with specialized legal research, management and technology classes.

Classes are offered on the University of Washington campus in Seattle, and are taught in sequence to each group of new students. Students take an average of 13 quarter credits per academic term (Fall, Winter & Spring) and a smaller number of credits in Summer Quarter. There is no option for part-time study or an online-only degree.

Directed fieldwork in a law library setting is required of all applicants prior to graduation during Summer Quarter. Students can choose from a wide variety of legal organizations (academic, law firm, court, etc.) as their host site. The fieldwork experience allows students to build their portfolios and enhance their qualifications through diverse work experiences and important mentoring relationships with library staff.

In addition, all applicants have the opportunity to work part-time as paid interns in the University of Washington Gallagher Law Library. Working with professional library staff, students are trained to meet the research needs of students, faculty and the public. Students gain valuable work experience in a modern

research law library, which prepares them to be outstanding candidates when applying for future jobs.

Career Placement

Law Librarians from the UW iSchool hold positions at many notable universities, law firms and government offices. The majority of graduates have found employment directly upon completion of the program at some of the following organizations:

- Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts
- Columbia Law School
- K&L Gates
- Ohio State Law Library
- University of Michigan Law School
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit Law Library
- Utah State Law Library
- Yale Law Library

Admissions

Applicants must have a Juris Doctor (J.D.) from an American Bar Association approved U.S. law school and provide a copy of their LSAT score. In addition, applicants submit a personal statement, three letters

The University of Washington Law Librarianship program is rated No. 1 in the U.S. News rankings!

of recommendation, answers to supplemental questions, transcripts, and curriculum vitae or resume. Check the iSchool website (ischool.uw.edu/mlis-apply) for specific admission requirements and dates. Applicants do not need to have prior work experience or library education in a law library setting before applying.

Law Librarianship without a Law Degree

If you do not have a law degree, you can still be a law librarian in a variety of legal organizations. Applicants interested in pursuing a career in law librarianship without a J.D. degree can apply to the iSchool MLIS program and choose to take selected on-campus law librarianship courses as electives. For more information on the iSchool MLIS program, please visit ischool.uw.edu/mlis.

Why should you choose a career in law librarianship?

"Law librarianship is an exceptional way to be part of the legal community and allows me to act in service to legal education, legal scholarship and legal practice."
J. Kennedy, Class of 2006

"There are so many interesting, intellectually challenging, fun career paths available to those with law library degrees. I've never known a profession with so many people who really love their work."
I. Mattson, Class of 2012

"Being a law librarian makes me feel like I make a difference every day; whether I'm supporting faculty research, instructing a student, or assisting a public patron, I'm helping someone who will go on to help themselves or others. Our work matters."
E. Manriquez, Class of 2017

"When a patron's face lights up because I was able to help them, whether it's on a complicated research project or a simple task like taking a screenshot, the fact that I just made a meaningful impact on that person makes the job absolutely worthwhile."
M. Cheney, Class of 2008

"In every library I've worked in, my co-workers always feel like family. A library work environment is typically highly collaborative, supportive, and friendly, and libraries as employers afford wonderful work-life balance."
C. DuBay, Class of 2013

Alumni Profiles



Tiffany Louise Camp, '16
Clinical Assistant Professor of
Law and Reference Librarian

Kathrine R. Everett Law
Library, UNC School of Law

I chose UW's law librarianship
program because I knew
that it would offer a premier

education coupled with practical experience and
mentorship... I recommend the program to any
prospective student interested in making lasting
contributions to a rewarding career that can span
across academia, government, the private firm
setting and beyond.



Scott Matheson, '01
Associate Law Librarian for
Technical Services

Lillian Goldman Law Library,
Yale Law School

The law librarianship
program prepared me to
pursue a varied career in

law libraries and academic libraries. There is
great training in legal research and reference, but
outstanding courses in teaching, technology, and
management are even more applicable to my
work today. The program provides unparalleled
opportunities for practical experience and
networking with experienced librarians working in
diverse settings.



Linda Kawaguchi, '92
Hugh and Hazel Darling
Foundation Library Director
and Professor of Law

One day while having lunch
at a Chinese restaurant and
pondering what to do when
my judicial clerkship ended,
my fortune read "Laws die.

Books never." I applied to the UW law librarianship
program that afternoon, and it prepared me for
a career that I love, and one which engages and
challenges me still.

Financial Aid

Limited financial aid is available for students in the
Law Librarianship Program. Please see
[depts.washington.edu/uwlawlib/
scholarshipsawards](https://depts.washington.edu/uwlawlib/scholarshipsawards)
for more information.

Contact Us

UW Law Librarianship Program Director
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Law Librarianship

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