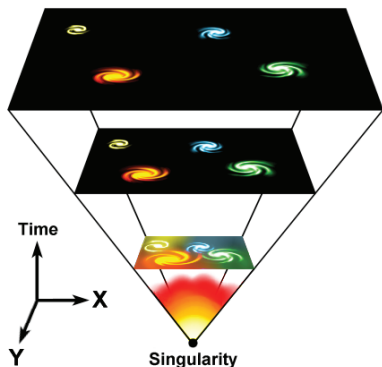


## WHY BE A SCIENCE LIBRARIAN?

Science librarians today are constantly challenged to learn new technologies and employ new tools and resources. They assist researchers seeking accurate, comprehensive information wherever it exists. Formats used may include datasets, digital maps, databases, audio & video files, and yes, even print.

- Discover a wide variety of positions that take advantage of your scientific knowledge and interests.
- Gain satisfaction by assisting in the progress of scientific research and the education of new scientists.
- Continue developing your scientific knowledge through collaboration and cooperation with students and researchers.
- Explore, implement, and use exciting new technologies.
- Enjoy a highly valued, service-oriented profession with great personal satisfaction.



## WHAT SKILLS AND CHARACTERISTICS WILL YOU NEED TO BE A GREAT SCIENCE LIBRARIAN?

### 1. A passion for your subject

Science librarians typically serve a highly educated, special population that will value your first-hand knowledge of science and the scientific research process.

### 2. A love of learning

Keeping up with the new ways researchers are finding information is a very rewarding challenge for life-long learners.

### 3. An interest in advocacy

Librarians are very active nationally and locally, protecting intellectual freedom and privacy.

### 4. Flexibility & Adaptability

The world of information is constantly changing, and flexibility is essential.

### 5. Curiosity & Initiative

A "Love of the Hunt" will help you serve the information needs of researchers and students.

## WHAT ARE THE JOB OPPORTUNITIES?

A well-documented shortage of librarians in general and science librarians in particular creates a job market with many opportunities for scientifically trained information professionals. Institutions offering jobs to science librarians include:

- College and university libraries, some serving primarily undergraduates, some serving more specialized clientele (medical, engineering, mathematics, physical and biological sciences, etc.)
- Corporate research libraries
- Government agencies, federal and state
- Hospitals and medical libraries
- Publishers and database providers

## WHAT ARE THE EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS?

Many science librarians now possess the following "preferred" degree combination:

1. Master of Library Science (MLS) from an American Library Association accredited university

See: [www.ala.org/ala/accreditation/lisdirb/lisdirectory.htm](http://www.ala.org/ala/accreditation/lisdirb/lisdirectory.htm)

2. Optional: A Bachelor's, Master's or Ph.D in a scientific field (e.g. biology, physics, geology, chemistry, mathematics, engineering, computer science, etc.) will make you a more competitive job applicant. Some programs now offer joint MLS/MS degrees, for instance in Bioinformatics.

"A certain thrill comes from knowing that I am responsible for selecting each resource in the biological sciences collection. Science librarianship is an intellectually rigorous and dynamic profession that requires scholarly aptitude and a desire to teach the research process."



Steven M. Adams  
B.S. in Biology

Biological and Life Sciences Librarian  
Princeton University

"Going into science librarianship has allowed me to pursue my passion for physics with a rewarding career contributing to scientific research and study. With help from ACRL's Science and Technology Section, it has been a smooth transition to the other side of the reference desk."



Joe Murphy  
B.S. in Physics

Physics Librarian  
Yale University

"I consider myself to be working in the field of biology, just in a non-traditional, yet exciting, position. Being a life sciences librarian allows me to stay current in the field and work closely with those doing cutting-edge research in the life sciences."



Katherine O'Clair  
B.S. in Environmental Science

Life Sciences Librarian  
Arizona State University

For More Information Contact:

# STS

Science & Technology Section

Association of College and  
Research Libraries (ACRL)  
50 East Huron Street  
Chicago, IL 60611-2795

STS is the Science and Technology Section of ACRL  
[www.ala.org/acrl/sts](http://www.ala.org/acrl/sts)

## Resources:

American Library Association (ALA)  
[www.ala.org](http://www.ala.org)

Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL)  
[www.ala.org/acrl](http://www.ala.org/acrl)

Medical Library Association  
[www.mlanet.org](http://www.mlanet.org)

Special Libraries Association  
[www.sla.org](http://www.sla.org)

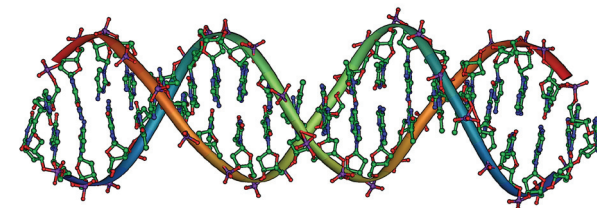
Association for Library and Info. Science Education (ALISE)  
[www.alise.org](http://www.alise.org)

Directory of Accredited Library and Info. Science Programs  
[www.ala.org/ala/accreditation/lisdirb/lisdirectory.htm](http://www.ala.org/ala/accreditation/lisdirb/lisdirectory.htm)

STS Mentoring Program  
Click on the Sci-Tech Library Mentors Link @  
[www.ala.org/acrl/sts](http://www.ala.org/acrl/sts)

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ACRL-STS Publications Committee

# SCIENCE MAJORS NEEDED



## GREAT CAREERS AWAIT

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## A SCIENCE LIBRARY NEAR YOU

 Association of College  
& Research Libraries  
A Division of the American Library Association