

October NMRT Discussion Summary for

### **Non-Traditional Career Paths for Librarians**

This discussion covered career paths that an MLIS can be used for. The careers discussed stray from the traditional “reference librarian” position and cover more “unique” positions that can be found.

Some of the careers discussed included:

- *Library Systems Trainer and Consultant* - a path that can be found with companies that create Integrated Library Systems and Library Management Systems such as SirsiDynix, Innovative, and Ex Libris.
- *Disability and Accessibility Services* - a position that serves as the heart of access services for the disabled. This involves obtaining and creating accessible texts, implementing and troubleshooting assistive technologies, and providing training on accessibility.  
A slideshow about the position was shared:  
<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/6txx4oeertk7oer/AABCORwtR79RsWxTXku-Eqf5a?dl=0>
- *Digital Collections* - the example provided was a digital scanning project in the UF Libraries. This position started out as simple scanning but grew into one that involved streamlining digitization and improving the pace of it.

The *Special Library Association* was brought up as a place to discover non-traditional positions. Other links were presented to help people think about the other positions unique positions available:

- <http://conjuringarts.org/library/>
- <https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781442263734/Career-Transitions-for-Librarians-Proven-Strategies-for-Moving-to-Another-Type-of-Library>

Additional notes on *Disability and Accessibility Services*:

Much was discussed about this type of work. While the initial post revolved around academia, it is important to note that “it’s rather interdisciplinary, so to speak, and touches on education, web design, information technology, publishing, and much more.” Those interested in this particular line of work should visit these links:

- [https://www.ada.gov/ada\\_intro.htm](https://www.ada.gov/ada_intro.htm)
- <https://www.section508.gov/>
- <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/Accessibility/office>
- <https://www.understood.org/en/tools/through-your-childs-eyes>
- <https://www.atia.org/at-resources/what-is-at/>
- <https://www.coursera.org/learn/disability-awareness>