

# Careers in Health Sciences Librarianship



## WHAT IS A HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARIAN?

Health sciences (and medical) librarians are health information professionals who have specialized knowledge in quality health information resources. They have a direct impact on the quality of patient care by helping physicians, health professionals, administrators, students, faculty, and researchers stay abreast of and learn about new research developments in their fields.

Health sciences librarians work anywhere health information is needed, including:

- hospitals, academic medical centers, and clinics
- colleges, universities, and professional schools
- consumer health libraries
- research centers and foundations
- biotechnology, insurance, medical equipment, pharmaceutical, and publishing industries
- federal, state, and local government agencies



## EDUCATION

To enter the profession, at least a master's degree in library or information sciences is required. A background in sciences, health sciences, or allied health can be helpful, but is not required. Many health science librarians start their career in other library types.



## HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARIANS:

- Thrive in a constantly changing environment
- Foster innovative ideas
- Develop technological aptitude
- Use creativity and curiosity
- Partner with goal-oriented teams
- Communicate complicated information
- Teach and coach learners at all levels
- Provide public relations and marketing
- Utilize problem-solving skills



## SALARY AND CAREER

MLA periodically surveys health sciences librarians about their salaries and benefits. In the 2017 MLA Salary Survey, the average entry-level salary (that is, the salary of someone with less than 2 years of experience) was **\$54,014** per year. The average salary of all US full-time health sciences librarians was **\$71,543** per year. The top salaries reported were in director positions with a high average of **\$140,700** per year.



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## CAREER AND NETWORKING RESOURCES



### Academy of Health Information Professionals

The Academy of Health Information Professionals (AHIP) recognizes the investment of time and effort required for exemplary professional performance and for contributions to the association and to the profession.



### Awards, Grants, and Scholarships

MLA provides financial support at a variety of levels.



### Continuing Education Courses

Earn Continuing Education (CE) credits through extensive educational programs.



### Jobs

MLA's job postings help individuals locate quality jobs and aid institutions in their searches for topnotch employees.



### Specializations

MLA provides certifications for specialized skills.



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### What is MLA?

The Medical Library Association (MLA) is the premier health science library professional organization.

### Do I need a science background?

Usually not. Health science librarians have a wide variety of educational paths.

### What's the difference between a medical librarian and health science librarian?

Usually vocabulary. Health science includes nursing, public health, dentistry and much more and medicine usually refers to medical school or clinical librarians in hospitals.

### How can I learn more about librarians in the Medical Library Association?



Check out "I am MLA" to meet librarians from across the world

