

Scope Statements for MLIS Specializations

[Information about the admissions process.](#)

- [Library Studies](#)
- [Archival Studies](#)
- [Informatics](#)

Library Studies Specialization

Libraries exist to provide access to recorded information and knowledge in all of its formats. To accomplish this mission, librarians acquire materials-- including books, audio and visual recordings, digital resources, and periodicals--and organize them for ease of access. They educate library users in strategies for finding needed information. Librarians encourage reading for pleasure, education, information, and inspiration; and they facilitate the creation of communities of readers. Librarians are strong advocates for all people's right to read and to inform themselves. A library can serve as an intellectual commons for a particular community, enabling people to come together around areas of mutual interest. In fact, libraries serve as the focal points for communities of many kinds--imagined communities as well as ones that are geographically determined (national, state and public library service areas) or institutionally based (in school, academic and corporate settings).

The library studies specialization at UCLA stresses the development of leaders for the profession and a commitment to the core values of the profession as articulated by the American Library Association:

- Access
- Confidentiality/Privacy
- Democracy
- Education and Lifelong Learning
- Intellectual Freedom
- Preservation
- The Public Good
- Professionalism
- Service
- Social Responsibility

In addition to learning about values and ethics, this specialization also enables students to gain the competencies recommended by other professional associations, such as the Special Libraries Association and the California Library Association, and to begin to engage in activities of professional associations, emphasizing regional, ethnic, national and other concerns. UCLA supports strong student chapters of the American Library Association and the Special Libraries Association, and has its own Activist Librarians and Educators group and Diversity Recruitment and Mentoring Committee.

Within the library studies specialization, students learn the functional activities associated with the profession such as collection development, public services, cataloging and classification, service to children and young adults, and outreach to underserved populations. Students may also take classes that prepare them to work in a particular type of library, such as public, academic, or corporate. When they graduate they will have the basic professional skills expected of all beginning librarians as well as an understanding of the dynamic nature of the field and the challenges and opportunities it presents.

Faculty research interests and information on their ongoing research projects relative to this area can be found on their respective websites. The following lists a broad array of student interests within this specialization:

- Services to children and youth in multicultural communities

- o Information literacy instruction
- o Preservation of library materials in all formats
- o Digital reference services including the creation of electronic resources as well as email and chat reference
- o Design of library collections and services to meet intergenerational needs and the needs of specific communities including people with disabilities.
- o Ethical and legal issues, such as copyright, intellectual freedom, Implications of the USA PATRIOT Act
- o History of the book and bibliography
- o People's information needs and information-seeking behavior
- o Library partnerships and collaborations
- o The libraries role in bridging the digital divide
- o Design of library buildings
- o Library partnerships and collaborations

Students specializing in Library Studies complete a course of study which combines core courses, elective courses, and practical experiences such as internships, field work and research opportunities. Students are required to take a minimum of one research methods course such as systems analysis, historical methods, or social science research methods; students wishing to pursue more in-depth research may take independent study courses or write a thesis.

To better prepare themselves for positions of leadership, many students choose to culminate the program by preparing a portfolio instead of writing a thesis.

Students are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the internship and field experience opportunities available at the more than 250 departmental approved sites in southern California including local academic and public libraries and libraries in special settings such as law firms, the Henry E. Huntington Library in San Marino or the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in Pasadena. Other internships include national or international sites such as the Congressional Research Service (through the University of California in the District of Columbia) or St. Petersburg State University of Culture. These associations offer many opportunities for participation in the life of the Information Studies Department and the broader professional community. In addition, students are encouraged to take cognate courses outside the department in the humanities as well as the social and physical or life sciences, which will prepare them to serve particular communities, manage specific organizational settings or work with particular subject content.

The master's program in library and information studies has held continuous accreditation from the American Library Association (ALA) since 1961. ALA accreditation assures the educational community, the general public, and other agencies or organizations that an institution or program (a) has clearly defined and educationally appropriate objectives, (b) maintains conditions under which their achievement can reasonably be expected, (c) is in fact accomplishing them substantially, and (d) can be expected to continue to do so.

<http://www.ala.org/ala/accreditation/accredstandards/standards.htm>

Archival Studies Specialization

Archives play a critically important role in many aspects of society. As repositories of a culture's unique documents, records and other texts, archives serve as basic tools for social accountability, the preservation and dissemination of historical memory, and the development of a richer understanding of cultural, social and political forces in an increasingly digital and networked world.

In addition to covering traditional archives and manuscripts theory and practice, this area of specialization addresses the dramatic expansion of the archival field. It charts how accelerating technological developments have changed both the form of the record and methods for its dissemination and preservation. It responds to shifting social and political conditions as well as the increased codification of archival practice through local and international standards development. It actively engages debates about archival theory and societal roles in diverse archival and cultural jurisdictions.

The specialization comprises a range of courses, experiential components, and research opportunities. Courses explore the full spectrum of archival materials (e.g., paper and electronic records, manuscripts, still and moving images, oral history); the theory that underlies recordkeeping, archival policy development and memory-making; and the historical roles that recordkeeping, archives, and documentary evidence play in a pluralized and increasingly global society. All students in Archival Studies are required to take IS 431 American Archives and Manuscripts as a foundation course for the specialization. Advanced seminars and an outstanding array of internship opportunities prepare students to play leadership roles in archives and manuscripts administration, records management, archival education and training, preservation, digital curatorship, recordkeeping policy development, archival systems design, electronic records management, and digital asset management. Students will also be expected to take research methods and statistics, and the core requirements for the

M.L.I.S. degree. Students may select additional electives from Information Studies and/or from the following areas: American Law, Anthropology, History of Science, Moving Image Archival Studies, Management, Museum Studies, Sociology, History, and inter-disciplinary studies programs that are offered in other UCLA departments and schools. Dual master's degrees are available with the Anderson School of Management, Latin American Studies and Asian American Studies (pending).

Students are strongly encouraged to avail themselves of internship and field experience opportunities available at over 250 approved sites in the southern California area. Internship sites include archives, museums, libraries, and information centers in such prestigious organizations as Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, RAND Corp., the Getty Center for the History of Art and the Humanities, the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library, the L.A. County Museum of Art, Dreamworks SKG, Walt Disney Imagineering, the Japanese American National Museum, the University of Southern California, and the Henry E. Huntington Library. Many internships are also available within UCLA, including UCLA Special Collections, Mayor Tom Bradley Collection, UCLA Film and Television Archive, the UCLA Ethnomusicology Archive, and the UCLA Oral History Program. Students are also able to participate in additional internship programs both nationally and internationally.

Archival students may also choose to complement their coursework with research experience. Information Studies faculty associated with the Archival Studies specialization have obtained funding from many prestigious research agencies including the National Endowment for the Humanities, the U.S. Department of Education, the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, the National Science Foundation, the Institute for Museum and Library Services, the Australian Research Council, the Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS - France), the Commission on Library and Information Resources, and Intel Corporation for projects as diverse as curricular innovation in archival education, use of primary sources in elementary and undergraduate science education, preservation of electronic records and digital music composition, new paradigms for educational access to archival resources, evaluation of online archives and museum resources, and the development of prototypes for digital retrieval of archival film. See: <http://is.gseis.ucla.edu/research/index.htm> as well as the Center for Information as Evidence <http://gseis.ucla.edu/cie/index.htm> for further information on ongoing research initiatives relating to the Archival Studies specialization.

Examples of student emphases within the Archival Studies specialization include:

- o Appraisal and collection-building
- o Preservation of traditional and digital materials in a range of media
- o Development of new methods for providing access based on the needs of diverse and non-traditional constituencies
- o Design and development of automated records creation and recordkeeping systems
- o Design and development of archival information systems, metadata including, inventories, finding aids and specialized indexes
- o Curatorship of both site-specific and virtual exhibits
- o Development, evaluation, and advocacy of archival and recordkeeping law and policy
- o Scholarly research on comparative archival traditions
- o Use of archival content in K-12 education
- o Intellectual property management and digital licensing of primary sources
- o Archival administration: from staff development to grant writing
- o Providing reference and outreach services
- o Management of special collections, archives, and manuscript repositories
- o Design and supervision of digitization initiatives

Graduates may work in both the private and public sectors in a number of roles, and are likely to work closely with others such as records creators, historical researchers, technologists, public officials, journalists, lawyers, and non-traditional users of archives.

In addition to promoting the highest professional standards in archival activities, students are challenged to provide leadership within their own field and to advocate for archives and records concerns to the wider community. They will be challenged to investigate common orthodoxies in order to encourage innovation and to re-think traditional models of archival organization and service to address the rapidly changing needs of the field and the increasingly diverse populations of records creators and users.

UCLA also supports strong student chapters of the Society of American Archivists and the Association of Moving Image Archivists. Further information about the Archival Studies Specialization is available at <http://polaris.gseis.ucla.edu/swetland/program.html>.

Informatics Specialization

Informatics is the emerging discipline that envisions information technology design and use in terms that include its larger institutional, social, cultural, and cognitive dimensions. As information technology is applied to an ever-widening variety of contexts, including work, home, shopping, and public spaces, these new applications require

a corresponding shift in the ability of information professionals to design, manage and evaluate information services.

Informatics is premised on the observation that successful design and integration of information technologies into society requires a sophisticated understanding of information seeking and use, metadata, user-centered design, electronic information genres, and how information technologies function as vehicles of power and social action. Students who complete the Informatics specialization will thus be well equipped to design modern information services, including digital libraries and repositories, metadata services, user training and relations, technical information retrieval, in a wide variety of institutional contexts, whether that be within libraries, archives, electronic media and publishing, cultural heritage institutions, standardization organizations, government, non-profits, or online businesses.

The Informatics specialization integrates educational offerings with both practical, in-the-field components and research opportunities. Courses explore theories of information-seeking behavior and information use; theoretical foundations and diverse approaches (e.g., ethnographic, participatory, user-centered) to information system design; human-computer interaction; design of metadata schemas for the provision of electronic services; database design and management; and information policy, including intellectual property, informational privacy and internet governance.

Some courses within the Informatics specialization may require that students have completed a computer programming course. Informatics students will be expected to take as their research methods requirement IS 282, "Principles of Information Systems Analysis and Design" as well as other core requirements and recommended electives in Library and Archival Studies. In addition, students will be encouraged to take cognate courses outside the Department, in Moving Image Archival Studies, Computer Science, Electrical Engineering, Law, Music, Biology, Geography, Cybernetics, Economics, Psychology, Anthropology, Ethnic studies, Management and/or any program which may usefully complement informatics training with a focus on particular communities, organizational settings, or subject content.

Students in the informatics specialization are strongly encouraged to avail themselves of departmentally approved internship and field experience opportunities available at over 250 internships in the Southern California area. Internship sites include high-tech firms, information service providers, libraries, archives, and information centers in a wide array of organizations including the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Dreamworks SKG, Symantec, the Getty Research Institute, Amgen, Infotrieve, the Superior Court of Los Angeles County, the Center for Nonprofit Management, and the Cedars-Sinai Information Center. Several internships are also available within UCLA, including the Fowler Museum for Cultural History, the California Center for Population Research, the Social Science Data Archive, and others. Students also are able to participate in other internship programs, nationally and internationally.

Informatics students may also choose to complement their coursework with research experience. IS faculty associated with the Informatics specialization have obtained funding from prestigious agencies, including the National Science Foundation, the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, France's Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, and others, to conduct research in the areas of digital preservation of authentic records (www.gseis.ucla.edu/us-interpares), digital library design, implementation and evaluation (is.gseis.ucla.edu/adept), information as evidence (www.gseis.ucla.edu/cie), and embedded networked sensing (www.cens.ucla.edu).

Examples of student emphases within the Informatics specialization include:

- o Information architecture
- o Community and social informatics
- o Digital preservation
- o Electronic commerce strategies
- o Electronic delivery of government services
- o Digital asset management
- o Design, management and optimization of metadata for information services
- o Participatory and ethnographic methods for user research and system design
- o Human-computer interaction, Web usability and interface design
- o Database design, management, and evaluation
- o Data warehousing and mining
- o Standardization processes, Internet governance and information policy
- o Ontology engineering, infrastructure and applications for the
- o Semantic Web
- o Design and evaluation of information metrics
- o Geographical Information Systems
- o Information retrieval
- o Electronic publishing and scholarly communication services

In each of those areas, students will be challenged to identify new emerging relationships between information,

information users, and the technologies that support information use, as well as how to steer those relationships in ways mindful of cultural diversity and social equity. Students of the Informatics specialization will thus be not only well-prepared to operate effectively in an area characterized by rapid technological and institutional change, but also, to provide the intellectual and professional leadership necessary in such times of transition.

UCLA also supports an award-winning chapter of the American Society for Information Science and Technology (ASIST).

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