



Alumni Employment Report, Class of 2008

Report prepared by Andrea Poehling, SLIS Student Services Coordinator, 28 October 2009ⁱ

Significant points

- The majority of the UW-Madison SLIS Class of 2008 found jobs in libraries, archives or other information agencies prior to graduation or within six months of graduating. Most were employed in the upper Midwest.
- Contrary to national trends, average salaries reported by SLIS graduates increased 2% from the previous year.
- Salaries of SLIS graduates exceeded the Midwest average for all 2008 LIS graduates.
- National trends indicate that the difficult economy is adversely affecting LIS hiring.

UW-Madison SLIS Class of 2008

The University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Library and Information Studies (SLIS) graduated 93 master's students in May, August or December 2008, including 72 graduates of the on-campus program and 21 graduates of the Prairie Area Library System (PALS) distance program in northern Illinois. By the summer of 2009, the majority of graduates (82%) were employed, earning another degree or not seeking work. Of the remaining graduates, 3% were seeking employment and 14% did not respond to the survey. Of the 72 students who reported details of their employment, the majority found positions in academic libraries (21) or public libraries (19). Graduates were also working in school library media centers (8), specialized libraries (7), archives (5), other LIS fields (6) and non-LIS fields (6). See tables 1 through 5.

Graduates found jobs most often in Wisconsin (30); Illinois (19, including 14 graduates of the PALS program); Iowa (4) and two each in Louisiana, Minnesota, Ohio and Tennessee. The remaining graduates were scattered across 11 states and one overseas location.

Most graduates found their jobs prior to graduation, returned to previous employers, or found employment within six months of graduation. Most graduates employed outside the LIS field or who were seeking employment were limited to a particular location or had special circumstances.

The average starting salary of the 49 graduates who reported salary data was \$39,494, with a median salary of \$40,000. This represents a 2% increase over last year's average salary of \$38,662 and a 5% increase over last year's median salary of \$38,000. The high salary in 2008 was \$60,000 and the low was \$20,000. Salaries of SLIS graduates exceeded the Midwest average (\$39,047) and median (\$38,000) for the Class of 2008 as reported by Library Journal.

Library Journal's nation-wide survey of 2008 LIS graduates

Library Journal's annual Placements and Salaries Surveyⁱⁱ examines how each graduating class lands in the library and information studies marketplace, with an eye toward identifying job trends and shifts in

pay. The 2009 survey shows that “the tough economy is playing out in LIS hiring. Even before the general economy's bloodletting of 2009, 2008 graduates were hit hard. Job searches for 2008 graduates averaged almost five months, and unemployment post-graduation rose. Average starting salaries dipped slightly overall, dropping 1.8% to \$41,579, after 18 years of increases. Placements in part-time and nonprofessional positions rose.” The average salary for 2008 graduates working in the Midwest was \$39,047. The median salary in the Midwest was \$38,000 and nation-wide was \$40,000. Highest salaries were found in the West.

Library Journal also reported that “pockets of good news fill out the picture. Among them, LIS graduates reporting minority status continued to experience positive salary growth; graduates finding positions in the Northeast negotiated better than average salaries; and academic libraries continued to experience growth in full-time numbers, though salaries held steady.

“Graduates had the best success when they started looking for work early.

“Perhaps most worrisome, however, is that the 2009 survey of 2008 graduates appears to be the precursor to what will undoubtedly be a seriously depressed job market for 2009 graduates now coping with widespread hiring freezes and budget cuts across all types of libraries and information agencies.”

National earnings reports for archivists and librarians

*Archivists*ⁱⁱⁱ: An estimated 5330 archivists were employed in the US in May 2008, 100 of whom were employed in the state of Wisconsin. The average annual wage of archivists in May 2008 was \$48,220 nationally and \$43,610 in the state of Wisconsin. This represents a decrease from 2007, when an estimated 5420 archivists were employed in the US (with an average annual wage of \$46,420), including 110 who were employed in the state of Wisconsin (with an average annual wage of \$43,700).

Librarians^{iv}: An estimated 151,170 librarians were employed in the US in May 2008, with 3100 employed in the state of Wisconsin. The average annual wage of librarians in May 2008 was \$54,700 nationally and \$51,720 in the state of Wisconsin. This represents an increase from 2007, when an estimated 148,800 librarians were employed in the US (with an average annual wage of \$52,800), including 2800 who were employed in the state of Wisconsin (with an average annual wage of \$49,550).

Tables: Data about UW-Madison SLIS graduates

Table 1: Status of UW-Madison SLIS graduates as of the summer during the year after graduation

Graduation year	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Number of graduates	70	76	71	78	70	77	95	93
Employed	61	47	57	65	55	62	75	73
Student	1	6	7	2	5	2	1	2
Unemployed: Not seeking	0	4	0	0	1	3	2	1
Unemployed: Seeking	5	1	1	11	2	0	8	3
Unknown	3	18	6	0	7	10	9	14

Table 2: Responses of employed UW-Madison SLIS graduates from table 1

Graduation year	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Number employed	61	47	57	65	55	62	75	72
Type of agency								
Academic library	29	24	18	17	19	17	25	21
Archives					3	7	8	5
Public library	10	7	14	21	16	18	21	19
School library	7	4	6	4	8	8	4	8
Special library	3	7	7	5	2	4	6	7
Other LIS field	5	4	5	15	4	4	3	6
Other field	5	1	1	3	3	4	6	6
Unknown	2	0	6	0	0	0	2	0
Salary								
Average salary					\$34,750	\$42,053	\$38,662	\$39,494
Median salary	\$33,500	\$34,000	\$37,000	\$36,000	\$35,450	\$37,670	\$38,000	\$40,000
Number reporting salary							58	49

Table 3: Status of UW-Madison SLIS 2008 graduates as of summer 2009

	On-campus	PALS	Total
Number of Graduates	72	21	93
Employed	53 (74%)	19 (90%)	72 (77%)
Student	2 (3%)	0	2 (2%)
Unemployed-not seeking	1 (1%)	0	1 (1%)
Unemployed-seeking	2 (3%)	1 (5%)	3 (3%)
Unknown	14 (19%)	1 (5%)	15 (16%)

Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Table 4: Responses of employed UW-Madison SLIS graduates, class of 2008, from table 3

	On-campus	PALS	Total
Number Employed	53	19	72
Full-time/Part-time			
Full-time	39	10	49
Part-time	3	2	5
Unknown	11	7	18
Professional/Non			
Professional	43	14	57
Non-Professional	2	2	4
Outside the LIS field	4	0	4
Unknown	4	3	7
Permanent/Temporary			
Permanent	36	12	48
Temporary	7	0	7
Unknown	10	7	17
Type of library/agency:			
Academic library	17	4	21
Archives	5	0	5
Public library	9	10	19
School library	7	1	8
Special library	5	2	7
Other: LIS field ^v	4	2	6
Other field	6	0	6
Unknown	0	0	0
Time to find job			
Returned to previous job/employer	4	8	12
Prior to graduation	20	1	21
After graduation	17 (16 graduates found a job within 6 months, 1 within 13 months)	2 (Both found jobs within 4 months)	19 (18 graduates found a job within 6 months, 1 within 13 months)
Unknown	12	8	20
Location	Wisconsin: 28 Illinois: 5 Iowa: 2 Louisiana: 2 Minnesota: 2 Ohio: 2 Other locations: 12 (1 each: AK, CA, CO, MO, NC, NJ, OR, TN, VA, VT, WA, South Korea)	Illinois: 14 Wisconsin: 2 Iowa: 2 Tennessee: 1	Wisconsin: 30 Illinois: 19 Iowa: 4 Louisiana: 2 Minnesota: 2 Ohio: 2 Tennessee: 2 Other locations: 11 (1 each: AK, CA, CO, MO, NC, NJ, OR, VA, VT, WA, South Korea)
Salary: Full-time equivalent			
Average	\$41,168 (41 reported)	\$30,918 (8 reported)	\$39,494 (49 reported)
Median	\$40,000 (41 reported)	\$34,500 (8 reported)	\$40,000 (49 reported)
Salary: Full-time only			
Average	\$41,515 (37 reported)	\$34,077 (6 reported)	\$40,447 (43 reported)
Median	\$41,000 (37 reported)	\$37,250 (6 reported)	\$40,000 (43 reported)

Table 5: Job titles and employers of UW-Madison SLIS class of 2008, reported summer 2009

Adult Services Manager, Wilmington Public Library District (IL)
Assistant Director, Coal City Public Library District (IL)
Bibliographic Systems Librarian, Miami University (OH)
Bookmobile Services, Fountaindale Public Library (IL)
Building Manager/Shipping Supervisor, UW-Madison Memorial Library (WI)
Campus Librarian, Globe University (WI)
Cataloger Librarian, St. Ambrose University Library (IA)
Cataloging Assistant, Wisconsin Historical Society (WI)
Children's Librarian, Oconomowoc Public Library (WI)
Children's Librarian, Winnebago Public Library (IL)
Collections & Scholarly Communications Librarian, UW-Madison Wendt Library (WI)
Consumer Health Librarian, St. Mary's Hospital (WI)
Content Indexing Data Analyst, Bloomberg LLP (NJ)
Coordinator of Electronic Resources and Technology, Ela Area Library District (IL)
Coordinator of LRC Technical Services, Sauk Valley Community College (IL)
Digitization Specialist, American Theological Library Association (IL)
Director, Creston-Dement Public Library (IL)
Director of Development and Research, University of Wisconsin Foundation (WI)
Document Control Specialist, M&I Bank (WI)
Elementary School Librarian, Whitefish Bay Schools (WI)
Emerging Technologies Librarian, Champlain College Library (VT)
English as a Second Language Teacher, SSM English School (South Korea)
Executive Director, Somonauk Public Library (IL)
Fellow, North Carolina State University Libraries (NC)
Government Documents/Microforms Circulation Librarian, Louisiana State University (LA)
Graduate student in History of Science, Medicine and Technology, UW-Madison (WI)
Graduate student in Musicology, UW-Madison (WI)
Graduate Student Secretary, UW-Madison Department of Horticulture (WI)
Human Resources, Madison Metropolitan School District (WI)
Knowledge Manager, University of Wisconsin-Madison (WI)
Leader of Mobile Play and Learn Program, Madison Metropolitan School District (WI)
Librarian, Richland Grade School (IL)
Librarian, Wisconsin Veterans Museum Research Center (WI)
Librarian, Resources for Child Caring (MN)
Library Assistant I, Scott Community College Library (IA)
Library Director, OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center & College of Nursing (IL)
Library Media Specialist, Portage Community School District (WI)
Library Media Specialist, Elementary School: Eau Claire (WI)
Library Paraprofessional, Joliet Public Library (IL)
Library Professional, Milwaukee (WI)
Limited Term Employee, Wisconsin Historical Society (WI)
Limited Term Employee, Wisconsin Historical Society (WI)

Manuscripts Archivist, Louisiana State University (LA)
Media Center Teaching Assistant, Middle School: St. Paul (MN)
Medical Librarian, OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center & College of Nursing (IL)
Outreach Librarian, Medical College of Wisconsin (WI)
Outreach Services Librarian, King College (TN)
Outreach Specialist, UW-Madison School of Library and Information Studies (WI)
Photo Archivist, Pikes Peak Library District's Special Collections (CO)
Preschool Specialist, Appleton Public Library (WI)
Reference and Electronic Resources Librarian, Loyola University (IL)
Reference and Instruction Librarian, University of Dubuque (IA)
Reference and Instruction Librarian, University of St. Francis (IL)
Reference and Instruction Librarian, Southeast Missouri State University (MO)
Reference and Instruction Librarian, Ohio University (OH)
Reference Assistant, Plainfield Public Library District (IL)
Research Intern, UW-Madison (WI)
Research Intern, UW-Madison MERIT (WI)
Research Intern, Wisconsin Library Services (WI)
Resident Counselor, Goodwill Industries of Southeast Wisconsin, Inc (WI)
School Librarian/Library Media Specialist (K-12), Columbus (WI)
School Library Media Specialist, Liberty Ridge Elementary (WA)
Science and Engineering Librarian, University of Alaska (AK)
Systems Librarian, Eastern Oregon University (OR)
Teen Librarian, Sun Prairie Public Library (WI)
Thesis/Dissertation Consultant, University of Tennessee, Knoxville (TN)
Web 2.0 Content Producer, TeachingBooks.net (WI)
Web Developer, UW-Madison DoIT (WI)
Youth Librarian, Aurora Public Library (IL)
Youth Services Assistant, Plainfield Public Library District (IL)
Youth Services Coordinator, Rosemary Garfoot Public Library (WI)
Youth Services Librarian, Ames Public Library (IA)
Youth Services Librarian, Orange County Public Library (VA)
Youth Services Librarian, San Diego County Library, El Cajon Branch (CA)
Youth Services School Liaison, Geneva Public Library District (IL)

ⁱ To contact Andrea Poehling, email student-services@slis.wisc.edu or phone 608 263 2909.

ⁱⁱ Maata, Stephanie. "Placements & Salary Survey 2009: Jobs and Pay Take a Hit." *LibraryJournal.com*. 15 October 2009. *Library Journal*. 21 October 2009. <http://www.libraryjournal.com/article/CA6702420.html>

ⁱⁱⁱ "Occupational Employment and Wages, May 2008." *Occupational Employment Statistics*. 4 May 2009. Bureau of Labor Statistics. 22 September 2009. <http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes254011.htm> and http://www.bls.gov/oes/2008/may/oes_wi.htm

^{iv} "Occupational Employment and Wages, May 2008." *Occupational Employment Statistics*. 4 May 2009. Bureau of Labor Statistics. 22 September 2009. <http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes254011.htm> and http://www.bls.gov/oes/2008/may/oes_wi.htm

^v The graduates who found LIS jobs in non-traditional settings are working as a data analyst, knowledge manager, web developer, leader of a preschool literacy program, director of development and research for a foundation, and outreach specialist for an LIS program.