



The Portable MLIS: Insights from the Experts

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Experts in several fields of library and information science have provided introductions to their areas of expertise. This foundation to the profession covers the competencies needed by professional librarians and can serve as both introduction to the new student and an update to the veteran.

Typically, interested laypeople and students are introduced to the knowledge, skills, and abilities of professional librarians piecemeal or through introductory or core courses. Unlike other fields (e.g., business administration, management), there is no published broad overview of the profession. Almost peculiarly, the basic foundation course in LIS education is about information in context, or libraries and their mission, but not about the competencies of professional librarians as a foundation for future courses.

This book fills that gap, whether as an introduction to the profession or as a response to the question What does a librarian do?

Here, experts in several fields of library and information science provide introductions to their areas of expertise, covering the competencies needed by professional librarians. Accessible and comprehensive, *The Portable MLIS* can serve as both an introduction for the new student and an update for the veteran.

The Portable MLIS: Insights from the Experts Details

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From Reader Review The Portable MLIS: Insights from the Experts for online ebook

Jackson says

I actually liked this textbook.

It was written as a series of essays by different people in the field, so it actually stayed pretty interesting. It was a pretty good introduction to library science and what the field is all about.

I will note that the chapter that focused on S.R. Ranganathan's 5 Laws of Library Science got some stuff wrong based on every single other source I have checked. Basically they list the second law as "Books are for all." (p xvi) whereas every other source I have ever seen lists the second law as "Every reader its book." Not sure what that's all about, but just a word of warning if you're thinking of using that essay as a reference in a paper or something. There were no sources listed for that essay (weird also) so I couldn't check to see if maybe there actually are other places where the second law is listed as such.

I think this is just a fluke, though, as, from what I could tell (and it's not like I fact-checked every detail) it seems fairly accurate and I would not discount it as a source because of that, I just felt it was worth mentioning.

Nicole Mardian says

Really interesting and gives an amazing overview of where libraries throughout the millenia have come from (yes, there were libraries thousands of years ago!) and where they're going.

Nancy says

Done with my first MLIS class- 11 to go!! This was an easy text book to read, filled with essays written by many different authors about varied issues in libraries such as ethics, advisory services, marketing and management. Some of the information was dated (copyright 2008) with limited information on newer technology. My professor said this would be the last year he was going to use this book.

Shane says

This was a good refresher for MLIS classes, and a brief introduction to the MLIS classes I didn't get a chance to take - probably best for those considering the MLIS program than for recent grads; and in terms of a monetary evaluation: I'm glad that I checked this one out at the library, and if I had bought it my rating would be lower.

Loryn says

This is a really interesting collection of works if you are into libraries and what school entails.

There were a lot of interesting stories that people told, but I probably never would have picked this up if it weren't for school.

It's a good source for library students, I highly recommend it.

Greg says

It's... all right, I suppose. As a basic introduction to the world of library and information science, it's not bad. At the same time, I can't help but feel that most of this is material that a new MLIS student (the presumed target audience) should already know going into their degree, either through trying to find out about their chosen career, or just in terms of living in the world in general.

Anyway, it's not bad, but it was hardly riveting reading material either. Ultimately, not a textbook that I'll keep for future reference.

Julie says

This book has been quite helpful for me while creating my ePortfolio at San Jose State. I do want to note that I am certain this was a 5 star resource when it was published about five years ago. It still was helpful in getting me to think about how to structure some of my essays for this final project. It was a good refresher as well, but I found myself using subject specific text books, papers from LIS literature, and Rubin's Foundations of Library and Information Science a lot more when it came time to actually write things up and cite material.

The downside is that the material has already become dated in some cases, the competencies used by San Jose have changed a bit since this book came out, and I think they should be a little more stringent with contributors having the evidence to back up some of their claims. I do think it is still worth a look, BUT try to buy a used copy, borrow a copy, get a copy through ILL, or at your local library. It is really not worth buying it new at this point.

Rino Landa says

An excellent introduction to the study of library and information science (LIS).

The selected articles are very clear and easy to understand (just what you want for an intro. textbook); with just enough examples to flesh out the theories and arguments central to LIS.

However, the article's clarity sacrifices some of the detailed information and that you find in LIS academic research - as well as what is found in more subject-specific texts.

Luckily, each article includes extensive citations and suggested readings to direct interested readers to more substantial readings.

Rachel says

A goldmine of information.

Darell Schmick says

This was given to me by a recent MLS graduate during my Library Science program. I found it to be a great review on the courses I already completed, and a great introduction on courses I hadn't taken yet at the time. Different authors penned each chapter, and I found their names familiar: many of them wrote the textbooks I purchased for my LIS courses of the same name! Turned out to be a great reference for the remainder of my degree program.

Now that I've completed the book, my intention follow my friend's gesture: this book will be passed on to another LIS or aspiring LIS professional.

Sarah Sammis says

The Portable MLIS edited by Ken Haycock and Brooke Sheldon was the main textbook for my Information and Society course. It is a collection of essays on different aspects of librarianship and policies and laws that affect libraries and librarians.

Each week we had to read an essay or two and post an answer to a question posed by our professor. Later in the week we would then have to respond to two other posts by fellow students. All of that extra writing and thinking about that book has left me feeling split-brained between enjoyment and exhaustion.

Let me explain. The individual essays are by themselves academic papers full of tips, insights, research and generally useful stuff. But the constant need to analyze the essays and respond to others' analyses has left me burned out. I need to let the book sit on my shelf of textbooks until I am ready to re-read the most interesting essays without the stress of a grade hanging over my head.

Janet says

Tedious, and slightly outdated by now (the e-book craze is only mentioned in passing, with no word on tablets or other mobile devices), but if you keep plugging away you'll find some very helpful tidbits. Those already working in the library field will realize they already know a lot of the information provided. It does serve a very good dual purpose, however, of introducing the neophyte to the library world as well as shoring up and re-enforcing the knowledge and attitudes of veteran workers.

Amy says

Like the book overall, good overview of the field . . . hated a few of the articles though - esp. Garon's near the begining. He totally weakened his argument for unbiased access to information by lacing his own essay full of his own bias and prejudice.

Jessica says

Very useful and practical information - However this book is out-dated and could use an update! I used this book a lot while completing my ePortfolio for my MLIS.

viktoria says

While researching for my (hopefully) last semester in grad school, I grabbed this book, largely because it was available at the library where I work. I wasn't expecting much because of the date, but I was really impressed with how relevant it was for the most part. If your program's as nuts about competences as mine is, it will come in handy. I ended up with nine good pages of notes, and a few resources I hadn't heard of before. Not bad for a six year old book!

tl;dr: I wouldn't necessarily buy it at full price, but it's worth borrowing or buying it used or on sale, especially if you're looking for librarian competences on a broad scale.
