

# Librarians and Library Media Specialists

SOC: 25-4022 • Career Profile Report

## ■ Key Facts

**\$64,320**

Median Salary

**142,100**

Employment

**+2.0%**

Growth Rate

## ■ Requirements & Salary Range

**Education:** Master's degree

## ■ Automation Risk Assessment

**Low Risk** - 10.0% probability of being automated in the next 10-20 years.

This job is relatively safe from automation due to its creative, social, or complex problem-solving requirements.

## ■■ Work-Life Balance

**9.0/10** - Excellent work-life balance

## ■ Personality Fit (RIASEC)

Higher scores indicate better personality fit for this career type.

Realistic	3.8/10	Investigative	6.6/10
Artistic	7.6/10	Social	9.4/10
Enterprising	5.2/10	Conventional	6.0/10

## ■ Top Skills Required

Communication skills, Initiative, Interpersonal skills, Organizational skills, Problem-solving skills, Reading skills,

### ✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

### ■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

## ■ What They Do

Librarians and Library Media Specialists manage **collections of books, digital media, and information resources, helping individuals access and use knowledge effectively**. They organize, catalog, and maintain materials, provide research assistance, and promote information literacy. Their work is critical in education, public services, and knowledge management.

This career is well suited for individuals who enjoy research, organization, and supporting learning and information access.

## What Do Librarians and Library Media Specialists Do?

These professionals organize collections, assist patrons with research, and manage library services.

Common responsibilities include:

- Cataloging and classifying books, periodicals, and digital resources
- Assisting patrons in locating and using information
- Developing and managing library programs and services
- Maintaining databases, archives, and digital collections
- Evaluating and acquiring new materials
- Providing instruction on research methods and information literacy
- Collaborating with educators, researchers, and community organizations

## Key Areas of Library Services

Librarians and library media specialists may focus on specific populations, collections, or services:

- Reference and Research Services: Assisting patrons with information queries
- Collection Development: Selecting, acquiring, and maintaining resources
- Digital and Media Services: Managing e-books, online databases, and multimedia
- Instruction and Outreach: Teaching information literacy and research skills
- Archives and Special Collections: Preserving rare or specialized materials

## Skills and Abilities Needed

These professionals combine organizational, technical, and communication skills.

### **Core Professional Skills**

### **Personal Qualities That Matter**

## Education and Career Pathway

This role typically requires formal education and professional certification:

- Bachelor's Degree (minimum): Often in library science, information studies, or related field
- Master's Degree (common): Library and Information Science (MLS or MLIS)
- Professional Certification (optional but recommended): Credentials in library services, digital resources, or archives
- Internships or Field Experience: Practical experience in libraries or media centers
- Continuing Education: Staying current with information technology, cataloging standards, and educational methods

## Where Do Librarians and Library Media Specialists Work?

They are employed in organizations providing information access, education, and research support:

- Public and Academic Libraries
- School Media Centers
- Research Institutions
- Government and Public Service Agencies

- Corporate or Special Libraries

Work environments include libraries, media centers, archives, offices, and educational facilities.

## Is This Career Difficult?

This career requires strong organizational, technical, and interpersonal skills. Librarians must manage diverse resources, assist varied users, and adapt to evolving information technologies.

## Who Should Consider This Career?

This career may be a strong fit if you:

- Enjoy working with information and supporting learning
- Are organized, detail-oriented, and analytical
- Have strong communication and teaching skills
- Can adapt to changing technology and information resources
- Want a career promoting education, research, and community access to knowledge

## How to Prepare Early

- Take courses in library science, information technology, or research methods
- Volunteer or intern in libraries, media centers, or archives
- Develop skills in cataloging, research, and information management
- Explore graduate programs in library and information science
- Gain experience with digital resources, databases, and instructional methods

**Librarians and library media specialists organize and provide access to information, supporting learning, research, and community knowledge.**

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Source: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/education-training-and-library/librarians.htm>