

PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Public libraries exist in all settings and range from large research-oriented operations to small community and rural reading room collections. They serve individuals of all ages and backgrounds with programs, community information, job and life skills, and recreational materials. They work closely with community and social service agencies. The following courses are among those suggested for individuals interested in working in this setting.

Public library service offers opportunities in many areas of expertise. Typically, public librarians focus on a particular area of service and students can benefit from considering the guidelines suggested below. Many of these courses and advisory “tracks” are useful in other specialties as well. These guidelines include recommendations for:

- General (Adult) Public Librarianship
- Technology Leadership

The specialties in Youth Librarianship, Rare Books, Archives, and Digital Librarianship are explained in their separate advisement sheets.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED FOR GENERAL ADULT PUBLIC LIBRARIANSHIP:

513 – Management of Libraries and Information Centers
610 – Reader’s Advisory
618 – Online Information Retrieval Techniques
662 – Library Public Relations
741 – Public Libraries
901 – Advanced Reference

RECOMMENDED FOR GENERAL ADULT PUBLIC LIBRARIANSHIP:

606 - Information Literacy and Library Instruction
669 - Government Information Resources
737 - Serving Diverse Populations
744 - Academic and Special Libraries

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED FOR TECHNOLOGY LEADERSHIP:

650 –Web Design and Content Management Systems
654 – Building Digital Libraries
707 – Human Computer Interaction
755 – Information Technologies and Society
770 – Information Systems and Retrieval

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Any position in a public library. Typical job titles include Reference Librarian, Library Instruction Librarian, Circulation Librarian, Outreach Services Librarian, Acquisitions Librarian, Cataloging Librarian, Electronic Resource Librarian, Systems Librarian, and Information Technology Associate/Librarian.