



University Librarians and Archivists

There tends to be an image of librarians from Hollywood and popular culture as people sitting at a desk reading and shelving books.

Much of the work librarians and archivists perform relates to documentary resources on which the academic mission depends. Collection management, which involves acquiring and making resources available is a prime task.

In university libraries, much of a librarian's work centers around information literacy instruction to university students and also to faculty.

Librarians are involved in assisting researchers with publishing activities and maintaining publications in open access repositories. Research data management, which involves large datasets produced by researchers, is a growing field of activity for librarians.

Archivists acquire and describe records (both in print and electronic format) to make them findable to students and researchers and to preserve those records for the long term.

Finding aids for archives are now sophisticated online databases which require technical expertise in addition to knowledge of rules for archival description.

Archivists perform an essential task in assisting researchers to locate and interpret documents relating to their area of study.

Both librarians and archivists also engage in research in the fields of library and information science as well as in other academic disciplines.

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