

Lia Friedman

**SUBJECT SPECIALIST: COMMUNICATION,
CRITICAL GENDER STUDIES, VISUAL ARTS,
ARCHITECTURE, IMAGES, & FILM STUDIES**

Led by the LAUC-SD Mentoring Committee, Librarian Profiles offer background information and career-related advice from UC San Diego librarians to MLIS students and graduates.

**Which institution did you
earn your MLIS or other
graduate degree?**

Pratt Institute

**Do you currently or did you
ever hold a professional library
position related to the focus
you pursued in graduate
school?**

No

**Did you have work experience
at any level in a library of any
type prior to attending library
school?**

No

**Do you have another advanced
degree(s) in addition to any
MLIS?**

No

**Did you focus on a particular
area of librarianship while
earning your MLIS?**

Yes, archives

**Beyond the MLIS, do you feel
that any additional advanced
degree is essential to success
in your current position?**

No

What are some of your current tasks and responsibilities?

- Instruction
- Reference
- Research Consultations
- Collections
- Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility

What do you like best about working in an academic or university setting?

I enjoy my colleagues and their vast knowledge base; a large university setting means that I can interact with many different people and work on many interdisciplinary fields within my own.

What are some skills or core competencies you feel are essential to success in your current position?

- Empathy
- Work/life balance
- Ability to learn alongside students (knowing I don't know everything)
- Continuous learning
- Justice-oriented mindset

What is something that you think contributed to you getting your first professional job following graduate school for your MLIS?

My non-librarian background. I dropped out of high school at 15 and worked in music and film, in activism and cooperatives, which ultimately led to my first professional job as a music and research librarian at NBC.

What do you like best about being a librarian or about your current role or responsibilities?

Interacting with students and learning new skills. Infusing my life experience into my instruction. Creating intersections between Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility work and everyday librarianship.

What is your advice to MLIS students seeking or entering their first professional library position?

Three pieces:

- Don't go into too much debt to attend library school.
- Your first job will likely be somewhere that you wouldn't expect; take a chance living in a place that may not be your first choice and get some experience under your belt.
- Take all the chances in library school to explore different types of librarianship, including internships. It's a great way to realize what you don't want to do as a librarian.

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Please contact me to further discuss my work or background.

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