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LIS 4000

Final Reflection Paper

Entry 1

My thoughts and intentions on why I am pursuing a MLIS still remain constant due to the endless opportunities within the industry that I have grown to learn even more over the period of this course. After completing my first quarter of the MLIS program, I find this program to align with all my interests and passions that I wish to pursue. I am passionate about archiving, organizing, and helping my surrounding community and a MLIS will allow me to do just that and more as I have learned over the past ten weeks. My knowledge has been expanded on the impact that I can have on my community to transform lives and expand knowledge through information which has raised my interest and excitement within the field even more.

I continue to have a broad set of interests within the field that are only growing, and have yet to narrow them down, so I am looking forward to exploring and learning more throughout the process and journey. I am anticipating pinpointing the exact environment I wish to be in because I am now interested in museums, special libraries, and corporate settings. I look forward to choosing my electives and getting more of an understanding of specific processes such as cataloging and information management.

I still consider the same daunting situations because my personality is not necessarily going to change, but my perception of these ideas can. My introverted self is still aware of the instances when I am going to be pushed out of my comfort zone and that can be intimidating to think about. Yet having my first quarter of school experience gives me confidence and eagerness to continue learning and narrowing down future goals and aspirations. I feel as if I have done a great job of embracing the daunting tasks and assignments as they have only made me stronger and more intelligent along the way. Overall, my goals have remained the same which I am encouraged by as that infers that I have kept my focus steady and have limited the distractions.

Entry 2

From the week 2 exercise, my top five values were resilience, accountability, innovation, empathy, and dedication. I still stand firm that these five values were my outcomes due to my personal experiences throughout my life that have shaped me to be who I am and remain after this course. I am now even more aware that my values along with many others apply to a variety of fields, including LIS. I specifically have learned over the remainder of this course how each of my values can be applied to librarianship. I still believe that my personal experiences remain applicable and that I will be able to use them to my advantage in the field one day.

One of my examples was that the library strongly upholds and understands intellectual freedom and the ideas that support it. Through the continuation of class lecture videos and discussions, I learned the library does this by providing access to material, prioritizing privacy, and through the organization of information. Intellectual freedom became one of my important takeaways from this course that is crucial and will be carried on through the rest of the program and my career. This is physically demonstrated through the variety of collections offered, serving diverse groups equally, and providing accessible facilities which I continued to read about in *Information Services Today*. Ways in which it might be challenging to support intellectual freedom is when there is a lack of resources. Time, staff, budget, and space are a few issues that I have pinpointed that might arise while pursuing intellectual freedom in the library setting. My thoughts on the rise of social media have grown as I wrote my annotated bibliography and literature review on this topic and its heavy influence on the industry. There is a concern about hate speech, attacks, and threats which can create challenges as well. Sorting the information found on the internet is an obstacle because there are some intentions to mislead and manipulate readers. My resources on how to navigate the online social media content and channels to the library's advantage increased my overall awareness and importance of this topic to effectively communicate with library users. Exploring the areas in which libraries practice intellectual freedom since this reflection by not advocating one idea over another, validating that there is no right answer always, and supplying public forums are just a few ways that I am inspired by the work those libraries do. I leave this topic feeling more encouraged than before and with new information to present to the industry.

Entry 3

My understanding of academic libraries has only expanded since I last reflected upon them. To increase my understanding of academic libraries, learning about the ingredients that compose the organization created a vivid understanding of the function of the library throughout this course and has significantly informed me on their intended purpose. Financial, staff, collection, technology, facilities, and consortia are a few of the ingredients that the library consists of that were elaborate on to place the puzzle pieces together for me to fully comprehend the functionality. Relationships with both stockholders and individual patrons allow me to acknowledge important connections. Since the reflection, I believe that I have the full picture understanding of their service which has deepened through discussions on my peers and reflections on their intended role to serve all patron groups. I am now aware of what composes the organizational units in administrative, public services, technical services, technology, and facilities.

The class material since the reflection has provided a deep understanding of the differences between various types of libraries which have been especially helpful for me as I still do not yet know which setting that I desire to serve in. Being informed and educated on their differences, specialties, and services provide an opportunity for me to narrow down my options. After learning more about the functionality of public libraries and children's services and their needs, I find that to be a segment that I am interested in. Learning that this is an area that is struggling right now gives me inspiration and motivation to tackle this issue and improve the quality and service to be an upcoming professional in the field. The course materials were effective in narrowing down my interests by informing me of all aspects of their everyday tasks and the needs of specific communities, specifically my own. This course laid the foundations of library, archival, and information science that will be carried with me through the rest of my career.

Entry 4

My comprehension of the diversity that is found within user experiences, organization of information, access, spaces for technology, and digital content to allow a personalized experience grew significantly after class nine and the conversations with my peers about this reflection. The types of user experiences vary uniquely from each library patron for their intended purpose of utilizing the academic library and its services. After the class breakout rooms on this reflection, I have a greater perception of the number of services that should be provided within libraries to meet the various needs. They mentioned ideas such as ramps for easy accessibility, larger hallways and walkways, and considerations of those who speak different languages. Learning from my classmates has been one of the greatest learning tools. Everyone in the course comes from various states and communities which has provided our class discussions with rich enlightenment on the topic of diversity. Learning from everyone's personal experiences and unique library settings is informative to learn the differences in our world and how to adapt to serve them all. The advantage of remote school has presented our class with diverse ideas and scenarios that are able to be openly shared, discussed, and compared. I concluded that I had a narrow viewpoint on this topic as I was only taking into consideration my community and hearing everyone else's thoughts allowed me to think beyond those thoughts.

A diversity that I still find to be the most concerning is accessibility. Access to resources is a process that looks different for every user and situation and requires heavy consideration. A factor that impacts this access to material is the digital divide. The digital divide refers to the gap in communities between people who have access to technology and digital resources and those that do not. Class discussion posts have led us to come up with solutions to attempt to bridge the gap in communities such as providing internet access in libraries and providing a list of resources and non-profits within the community that are there to serve this population group.

Conclusion

I came into this course and the first quarter of the program with nerves, having no prior experience or knowledge in librarianship. I now part this course feeling accomplished with a thorough understanding of the foundation of library archival and information science. The important concepts in this course to me were library competencies, intellectual freedom, access to information, connecting and engaging the community, the ingredients of the library, and advocacy. The important topics are all intertwined and related to the services and resources that libraries provide to their users. The collection and group of services provide a central location for individuals of the community to come and be transformed and expand their knowledge. This democratic institution is composed of collections, services, and spaces that create a mission to properly serve the patrons as a have learned thoroughly in this course. To help with information overload for people to find the information that suits their needs precisely, the concepts in this course will aid the needs to be met. And lastly, commitment to the values of librarianship will facilitate access to information to be analytical and solve problems that may arise.

Considering my reflections now that all class material has been covered has allowed me to explore all the elements and components involved to fully immerse myself in what will be the foundation of the program and my future. Reflecting back on these ideals will be a common occurrence for me to put the values of librarianship at the forefront to enhance my skills to best serve my community.