

Data Librarianship

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Hi. I'm Dave.

What I do

1. Data management planning
2. Application management
3. Repository and curation services
4. Data visualization
5. Scripting and coding
6. Data munging/reformatting
7. Other duties as assigned

What's a data librarian?

The short answer:

"A data librarian works at the intersection of research data management, data science, the research lifecycle, scholarly communication, and digital curation."

"Databrarians" are typically found in academic or research libraries.

Key areas of work

- Reserach data management
- Data reference, collection development
- Digital archiving and curation
- Library research/data services
- Data technology instruction
- Data visualization

What kind of environments are these jobs in?

- A general split between public services (subject liaisons), scholarly communications, and library IT
- Primarily at large research institutions, but the specialization is growing

Where to find out about these jobs?

- ALA: Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL)
 - Digital Scholarship Section
- ALA/: Library Information Technology Division (LITA)
- [Code4Lib](#)

Relevant organizations

- Association for Information Science and Technology (ASIST)
- Research Data Alliance (RDA)
- American Library Association (ALA)
- Society of American Archivists (SAA) [well, sort of]

Breaking into the field

- Practical, hands-on experience is invaluable
 - look for internships/jobs related to digital preservation/curation
 - look for internships/jobs related to digital/institutional repositories
- Take coursework related to information management, digital pres./curation, data management, big data, programming, etc.

Some useful texts

Johnston, Lisa R. (2017). *Curating research data*. 2 vols. Chicago: ACRL.

Kellam, Lynda and Kristi Thompson, eds. (2016). *Databrarianship: The academic data librarian in theory and practice*. Chicago: ACRL.

Rice, Robin and Southall John. (2016). *The data librarian's handbook*. London: Facet Publishing.

Borgman, Christine L. (2015). *Big data, little data, no data*. Cambridge: MIT Press.

Briney, Kristin. (2015). *Data management for researchers*. Exeter: Pelagic Publishing.

Ray, Joyce M., ed. (2014). *Research data management: Practical strategies for information professionals*. West Lafayette: Charelston Insight.

Some useful reading

Genifer Snipes. (2018). *Everyone's a data librarian now.*

<https://www.newlibs.org/api/v1/articles/3240-everyone-s-a-data-librarian-now.pdf>

Christina Czuhajewsi. (2015). *So you want to be a data visualization librarian?*

<https://hacklibraryschool.com/2015/06/04/so-you-want-to-be-a-data-visualization-librarian/>

Some handy links

- [ICPSR](#) (well known data repository for social science and leader in data curation)
- [Midwest Data Librarian Symposium](#) (an annual meetup of data librarians – the past schedules are a great guide to current topics in the field)
- [DataCamp.com](#) (intro level resources for data science and programming)
- [DataCite.org](#) (data repository aggregator, citation guide, and DOI provider)
- [Data Management Wikipedia Page](#) (a handy list of related topics)
- [DataONE.org](#) (research data management tools and guides)

Some relevant iSchool courses

INST 627, INST 641, INST 643, INST 728R, INST 737, INST 742, INST 767, LBSC 784

Thanks!

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