

Lib.Gig Profile



Name

Paul Henriques

What Library Graduate School program did you attend?

Simmons College, Graduate School of Library and Information Science

Year Graduated:

2006

Years in the field:

6

Current Job:

Research Librarian, United States Postal Service Headquarters

What are the most valuable skills and abilities you bring to your job?

I work with a team of three librarians, including myself, and we each bring unique experiences with us to the table. Having worked for a defense laboratory as a librarian and a financial editor, those jobs have given me an edge regarding technical and financial industries. Likewise, one of the librarians I work with used to be a news librarian and my supervisor used to work in a medical library. This diversity in work experience helps us serve our clients better.

What is your proudest professional accomplishment?

Getting an article I wrote published in Library Journal.

In my former profession I was:

I was an editor for a financial news company.

Before I went to library school I:

Studied Communications at George Mason University where I also competed on the crew team. It was there I worked for the Patriot Club where I was responsible for fundraising to benefit the athletic booster organization and help out with the logistics of sporting events. After graduation, I went on to work in meeting planning for a government consultancy. I realized after a year that a career in meeting planning wasn't for me, and I changed my career course to prepare for graduate school.

My passion is:

Automobiles, specifically European brands such as Mercedes-Benzes, Alfa Romeos and Maseratis. I have won two awards in the past with two different vehicles I owned, both stemming from condition and originality of the vehicles. I also collect fine watches and pens. I enjoy traveling; California and Europe are two favorite vacation spots.

Words of wisdom to pass on:

Work or volunteer in a library before you graduate, as landing your first job without any prior experience is an uphill battle. Don't rely solely on university career offices for job hunting advice, as many institutions have a long way to go in terms of funding and understanding the intricacies of the MLS degree, not to mention the library job market. Talk to your professors, network with those in the field and join organizations such as the American Libraries Association (ALA) or the Special Libraries Association (SLA) for example. These associations offer a wealth of networking opportunities and have job boards where you can find openings not listed in other venues.

Anything else you want anyone to know about you, your job, trends or the profession? If- so, speak your mind here!

The MLS degree is highly undervalued and those with the degree will find themselves taking on roles in the future that once seemed far fetched. In particular, as a special librarian, it is essential to prove that your job has a positive effect on the bottom line of your organization. The Internet has changed the landscape of the workplace and has left a lot of confused individuals out there. It is our job to be able to target credible, concise information in a timely fashion for those who need it.
