

INFORMATION SCIENCES

What can I do with this major?

AREAS

EMPLOYERS

INFORMATION/STRATEGIES

INFORMATION ORGANIZATION

Cataloging/Taxonomy
Indexing
Information architecture
Metadata librarian
Special collections librarian
Technical information specialist
Database administration
Digital archivist
Document analysis

Government agencies
Research centers
Healthcare and pharmaceutical firms
Engineering and bio-engineering firms
Hospitals
Media or advertising agencies
Educational services

Organize and catalog massive amounts of data for organizations using specialized software.
Create efficient ways to organize, store and access data.
Supports data access, retrieval, and preservation.
Learn basic computer science skills by taking a course on campus or online.
Become familiar within database software.
Stay informed with technological advances and be able to adapt to new technologies.

DATA SCIENCE

Big data management
Business intelligence
Data analysis
Data preservation
Data extracting
Donor/Prospect research
Competitive intelligence
Online retrieval
Digital curation
Geographic information
Research services
Risk management/Assessment
Science information

Research centers
Large corporations
Government agencies
National laboratories
Academic research centers
Healthcare research centers
Special libraries

Enables companies to turn numbers into information and strategic insights.
Supports data access, retrieval, and preservation.
Cleaning raw data and creating easily understandable visual presentations.
Expertise in an industry or subject area may be helpful.
Become familiar within database software and statistical analysis software.
Supplement undergraduate curriculum with courses in business to gain an understanding of marketing principles.
Stay informed with technological advances and be able to adapt to new technologies.
Develop excellent research, writing, and organizational skills.

AREAS

EMPLOYERS

INFORMATION/STRATEGIES

INFORMATION SYSTEMS/TECHNOLOGY

Information security
 Consulting
 Information architecture
 IT administration
 IT analysis
 IT training
 Network administration
 Programming
 Software design
 Systems analysis
 Technical support network
 Web development/Maintenance

Libraries (public, academic, and special)
 Data processing centers
 Corporations
 Software and computer companies
 Financial firms
 Manufacturing firms
 Research centers
 Government
 Universities
 Consulting firms

Analyze technology needs for organizations, recommend and maintain new technology.
 Ensure security of network and information.
 Build a strong computer background in programming skills using several languages, various operating systems, database management, software and networks.
 Increase employment opportunities through product-related certification or by earning Certified Computing Professional (CCP) status conferred by the Institute for Certification of Computing Professionals. CCPs must pass an examination and meet various requirements.
 Gain related experience through internships, co-ops, or part-time employment.
 Develop excellent analytical, decision-making, and written and oral communication skills.
 Learn to work well with both technical and non-technical staff.

SPECIAL LIBRARIES & INFORMATION CENTERS

Antiquarian books
 Business intelligence
 Copyright and intellectual property
 Data management
 Data quality engineering
 Digital curation
 Digital preservation
 Document design
 Grant research/ writing
 Indexing/Abstracting Information architecture
 Information management
 Knowledge management
 Records management/Archives
 Strategic information
 Visual resources

Large hospitals
 Medical schools
 Law firms
 Law schools
 Large corporations
 Industrial and scientific collections
 Research labs
 Local, state, and federal government agencies
 Nonprofit organizations
 Colleges and universities
 Museums and art institutions
 Historical societies
 Publishing houses
 News organizations and electronic media
 Picture services
 Motion picture studios
 Television stations
 Trade and professional associations

Special collections librarians generally have interests, skills, and knowledge related to the collection and may work with a particular population in special libraries (e.g., lawyers or doctors).
 Most positions require a bachelor's degree in a field related to the collection topic (e.g., business, science, art, etc.). Some require a graduate degree in the field.
 Many law librarians have a Juris Doctor (law degree).
 Knowledge of foreign languages may be required in certain fields.
 Develop skills in research and a solid background in information technologies.
 Earn a master's degree in library or information science from an ALA accredited program.

AREAS

EMPLOYERS

INFORMATION/STRATEGIES

ELECTRONIC PUBLISHING

Design, formatting and editing
Digital library development
Manuscript preparation
Electronic content manager
Intellectual property analyst
Digital acquisitions coordinator
Copyright specialist
Technical writing

Database producers
Distributors of electronic publications (e.g., business firms, universities, nonprofit organizations, professional associations, etc.).
Electronic publishers

Electronic publishers or publishing professionals create and distribute publications in electronic form.
Develop writing skills through classes in English, journalism, or technical writing.
Learn advanced website design and programming.
Become fluent in electronic publishing technologies, such as HTML and Adobe Creative Cloud
Acquire advanced knowledge of formatting/troubleshooting with electronic templates.

USER EXPERIENCE

User research
Experience design
Human computer interaction
Content management
Usability engineering
User experience design
User interface design
Web design/development
Information architecture
Interface design

Software and computer companies
Brand management consultants
Media corporations
Government agencies
Online app development start-ups
Educational institutions
Libraries
Web design firms
Marketing and advertising agencies

User experience professionals typically work to improve design and development of information systems and to measure and evaluate the usability of products and applications.
Bachelor's degrees focusing on human behavior, psychology, and/or computing, are especially helpful.
Build a strong background in web design, programming, HTML, research methods, and data analysis.
Develop excellent computer and communication skills.
Develop excellent research, writing, and organizational skills.
Learn to work well with both technical and non-technical staff.

GENERAL INFORMATION AND STRATEGIES

- Information science professionals work in diverse settings such as corporations, consulting firms, government agencies, educational institutions, non-profit organizations, special libraries, and any organization involving information management
- Qualifications important to the field include the ability to work well with people, good written and oral communication skills, intelligence and curiosity, research and computer skills. An eye for detail, and a general love of learning are also essential.
- Understand trends in media, computers/technology, and knowledge of specific industries is important to success in the profession.
- Become familiar with basic business operations, contract/vendor negotiation, and purchasing.
- The ability to learn and adapt quickly to new technologies is important in this industry
- Work in campus libraries or IT offices part-time or during the summers to gain experience
- Supplement undergraduate curriculum with courses in communications, media, business, or technology.
- A master's degree in computer technology, business, or information science may be required to move into advanced roles
- Join professional associations such as the Association for Information Science & Technology (ASIS&T), Special Library Association (SLA), Society of American Archivists (SAA).
- Source credit: Dority, G. K. (2006). Rethinking information work: A career guide for librarians and other information professionals. Westport, CT: Libraries Unlimited.