

## Elevator Speech Templates about Health Sciences Librarianship

Inspired by [ALA's Everyday Advocacy Initiative](#), we've crafted 1-minute elevator speeches about health sciences librarianship tailored to specific audiences. Please edit for your own voice!

### For prospective MLIS students considering librarianship as a career in general:

- It's not so much about the books these days. Books are just a small part of what librarians do. Do you enjoy working with and helping people? How about organizing things? Do you want to make a difference in your community? Then, librarianship may be for you!
- Librarians are a central part of their community, whether that be public facing, in a university, in a hospital, in a law firm, or at a corporation, among others.
- Librarians are the human Google and work to make the lives of their community members better by being the conduit between information, technology, and people.
- Librarians are in high demand, but competition for general librarian positions is steep! Niche specialties in librarianship, like medical/health sciences, often offer greater job opportunities, diversity of job responsibilities, higher salaries, and smaller, tight-knit professional communities!
- Health sciences librarians serve a unique community...usually a hospital/health care system or schools of medicine, nursing, dentistry, veterinary medicine, clinical psychology, and other allied health training programs. They provide access to and deliver important information that improves patient care and supports education, research, and publication.

### For current MLIS students who may not be aware of health sciences librarianship:

- **Librarians are in high demand, but competition for general librarian positions is steep!** Niche specialties in librarianship, like medical/health sciences, often offer greater job opportunities, diversity of job responsibilities, higher salaries, and smaller, tight-knit professional communities!
- **I have zero experience in medical/health sciences, so I don't qualify.** You don't need a background or degree in a medical/health sciences or sciences discipline - most medical librarians didn't actually start out seeking to be a health sciences librarian, but encountered it through their networks, coursework, practicums, or just by chance!
- **Who will I actually work with?** Most health sciences librarians work in either hospital libraries or academic medical libraries and support current health professionals or the training of future physicians, nurses, dentists, veterinarians, therapists, and more! Others may work in consumer health or corporate health sector libraries.
- **What will my job look like?** Health science librarians wear many familiar hats: we teach information literacy, search biomedical literature, design websites, assist with research projects, develop collections, serve on committees, and so much more! Some librarians specialize in institutional repositories, systematic reviews, data services, and scholarly publications. There are plenty of opportunities to find your role in the field.

- **What can you do now?** Talk to some current medical librarians; tailor your current coursework toward health sciences topics. Just know that most of what you do will be learned on the job!

Need something for your specific role. Use the above as templates and remember the point of an elevator speech is to express “What do you do, and why is it important?”