

# Dani Brecher Cook

ASSOCIATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN  
LEARNING AND USER EXPERIENCE

Led by the LAUC-SD Mentoring Committee, Librarian Profiles offer background information and career-related advice from UC San Diego librarians to MLIS students and graduates.

**Which institution did you earn your MLIS or other graduate degree?**

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

**Do you currently or did you ever hold a professional library position related to the focus you pursued in graduate school?**

Yes

**Did you have work experience at any level in a library of any type prior to attending library school?**

No

**Do you have another advanced degree(s) in addition to any MLIS?**

Yes, MA in Research, Evaluation, Measurement, and Statistics from the UC Riverside Graduate School of Education

**Did you focus on a particular area of librarianship while earning your MLIS?**

Yes, library instruction

**Beyond the MLIS, do you feel that any additional advanced degree is essential to success in your current position?**

Yes

**What are some of your current tasks and responsibilities?**

- Lead a team of approximately eighty FTE (including four direct reports) across three programs: Academic Engagement and Liaison Services; Spaces, Lending and Access; and Technology and Digital Experience
- Provide vision and strategy for the Library's public services, incorporating feedback and data from both users and staff
- Work with campus partners on collective impact-related projects, including affordable course materials and equitable access to technology
- Serve as convener and facilitator for the Library's two student advisory bodies

**What are some skills or core competencies you feel are essential to success in your current position?**

- Facilitation
- Project management
- Writing
- Listening and synthesis
- Curiosity

**What do you like best about being a librarian or about your current role or responsibilities?**

My job is different every day, and I learn something new almost every day.

**What do you like best about working in an academic or university setting?**

The shared sense of mission: The commitment to educate the population of California and conduct research for the public good.

**What is something that you think contributed to you getting your first professional job following graduate school for your MLIS?**

I worked three part-time library jobs when I was in library school. That practical experience opened the door to my first library job more than my coursework.

**What is your advice to MLIS students seeking or entering their first professional library position?**

It is unlikely you will meet all of the criteria for most jobs—apply anyway.

*last updated March 2023*

Please contact me to further discuss my work or background.

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