

# Farshad Sonboldel

WORLD HISTORY AND CULTURES LIBRARIAN

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 St. Andrews, UK, for Ph.D. in Modern Languages, with a focus on Modern Persian Literature; no MLIS

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

Yes

## 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?

- Develop and manage world history and cultural studies collections
- Provide research assistance to students and faculty
- Contribute to workshops and teaching information literacy
- Collaborate with faculty on curriculum development
- Engage in outreach and community engagement activities

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

- Expertise in world history and cultural studies
- Strong research and information retrieval skills
- Effective teaching and workshop facilitation
- Collaboration and communication abilities
- Community engagement and outreach proficiency

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

The most rewarding aspect of being a librarian is connecting people with the resources they need to succeed. In my current role, I love curating diverse collections that enrich our understanding of global cultures and histories. Collaborating with faculty and students on their research projects is incredibly fulfilling, as it allows me to contribute directly to their academic growth and discoveries.

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

My first professional job was secured through my Ph.D. in literature, extensive research and publications, and diverse experience working in various academic library sections. This blend of academic credentials and practical skills, along with a proactive and enthusiastic attitude, was key to my success.

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

Working in an academic setting is inspiring due to the dynamic environment of continuous learning and intellectual exchange. I enjoy collaborating with passionate students and faculty, supporting their research and academic endeavors. The opportunity to contribute to the advancement of knowledge and the development of critical thinking skills in a diverse and vibrant community is immensely fulfilling.

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

Network actively and seek diverse experiences through internships or volunteer work. Build strong relationships with mentors and peers, stay adaptable, and continuously develop your skills. This proactive approach will enhance your expertise and open doors to opportunities in the library field.

*last updated June 2024*

Please contact me to further discuss my work or background.  
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