The Music Library Association is the professional organization for music libraries and librarianship in the United States. Founded in 1931, it has an international membership of librarians, musicians, scholars, educators, and members of the book and music trades. Complementing the Association’s national and international activities are eleven regional chapters that carry out its programs on the local level.

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Where are Music Librarians employed?

- Academic Libraries
- Public Libraries
- Radio and television stations
- Music publishers and dealers
- Bands and orchestras
- Music archives
What is a Music Librarian?

A music librarian is a librarian who specializes in music.

A broad musical background is essential. Training in music & librarianship is necessary.

What does a Music Librarian do?

- Answers questions
- Teach research skills
- Assists with research
- Catalogs books, scores, & recordings
- Selects materials
- Digitizes print and media formats
- Increases library visibility
- Preserves physical materials

What are the qualifications of a Music Librarian?

- Substantial undergraduate coursework in music
- Master’s degree in Library Science from an American Library Association-accredited library school
- Graduate work in music is desirable
- Foreign language skills desirable

What are the career prospects?

Music librarianship is a financially stable career, and one that many musicians find compatible with a part-time second career as a performer.

Different areas of specialization allow for growth and career advancement.

For more information about Music Librarianship:


MLA also offers Job Placements and Resume & Cover Letter Review services.

musiclibraryassoc.org/employment.aspx?id=80