

The MLIS Degree -- Really, Why Bother? – Part 1

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What exactly is the value of the MLIS degree in academe in the 21st century? Broadly defined, value refers to the realized and potential significance, relevance, scholarly contribution, and appropriateness of the degree to a rapidly-changing profession. As the necessity for hiring academic librarians is being more frequently challenged by university administrators, what can we say in defense of our profession's terminal degree? What advantage, if any, does the MLIS degree grant a library professional in the academy? These questions shall be addressed in two sessions: a panel featuring invited speakers representing various perspectives on academic librarianship, and a subsequent roundtable open to conference participants. In the first session, our panelists will interrogate the foundations of the library profession, the profession's relevance to academe, and whether present pedagogical approaches are commensurate with the demands of the academic workplace and emerging critical scholarship.