

Terry's advice to students considering concentrating on a single type of library in the 40 hour MS-LIS curriculum at Illinois.

For many years, the MS-LIS ALA accredited program at Illinois has focused on training librarians in the 40 hours (legacy one year [two summers & two semesters] master's program) in a generalist foundation in librarianship program of study. For years the only two specialized type of administration/management courses offered were for School librarians and Special librarians course work, But even here, school and special librarians were expected to take the introduction to Library and Information Center Administration course (IS 505) in addition to the specialized type of library course.

More recently, courses in Academic Librarianship and Public Librarianship have appeared, but with the exception of School Librarianship, IS 505 does not appear to be a prerequisite or co-requisite for the other specialized type of library courses. I strongly recommend students consider 505 as a course to take prior to taking a specialized type of library course.

The basic Library administration class (505) will provide an overview of the administrative principles and skills needed in all types of libraries and provides you the flexibility of being able to have confidence that you can, if you care to, seek employment, depending on your interests and skills, beyond just one type of library.

While some specific library positions have licensure requirements that may require specialized courses, often general administrative skills as found in IS 505 are also expected. I am happy to discuss the issue of needed course work in library administration on a one-to-one or a group basis. Just contact me at weech@illinois.edu