

The literature review assignment featured in this section of my portfolio is an exploration of what is required in a leader based on the philosophy and ethics of library and information science. Conducting this research was a huge part of the curriculum of learning how to be a leader as a library professional. Prior to this course, I had believed that holding a position of authority within the library might mean that you have a wealth of knowledge about library work, but this course taught me that being a leader requires more— that a leader is meant to be a champion of the library and conduct work on its behalf. According to the literature, a library leader must act as a liaison between their library and the higher powers of the administration they serve whether it be a board, a Provost and President, or a commission. I believe that navigating leadership in a library environment is a lesser-known aspect of library and information science that has been crucial to learn more about during my time in SLIS. Taking this course on leadership is an essential piece of this degree as libraries need leaders who understand how libraries need people in the field that will uphold the philosophy, principles, and ethics of librarianship successfully among the obstacles and challenges it may face. This short literature review covers the politics of librarianship and how leaders must use what they know to make capital gain on behalf of what libraries are trying to do for their communities. To manage conflicts, create solutions, and navigate sometimes turbulent times of crisis are all what library leaders and workers might face in their tenure as librarians. This understanding of the nuanced challenge of librarians directly conflicts with something heard so often about the stereotype of library work: librarians just read or check out books all day. In reality, those in the field understand that they are stewards of intellectual freedom, literacy, and accessibility for all and library science professionals should be prepared to be savvy enough to fight for those rights on behalf of the communities they serve.

The mini paper assignment that I have also included in this category discusses how diversity and inclusion are woven into the core values of librarianship and the fallacy of library neutrality. In this mini paper, I discuss my justification for how bias and inaccessibility can be woven into library spaces and policy—prompting library professionals to seek out these areas of bias and dismantle them. I argue that if education and lifelong learning are among the core values of librarianship, then identifying areas of inaccessibility is part of library work. This also coincides with making libraries sustainable and accessible for all. These ideas guide library work in a way that is not neutral to the challenges of the communities they serve, but asks library professionals to examine areas of injustice and help. In this paper, I rely heavily on the example of how libraries were often forced to turn away members of the African American community during segregation and how slavery and inequality are woven into the foundations of our education and government systems. With the diverse populations they serve, librarians run the risk of their services being received unequally among their patrons. Rather, librarians can make sure their services are provided with equity. This mini paper helped me to explore how the core values of librarianship work to serve the crisis of our communities and the ways that librarians can help.