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Whole Person Librarianship: Library Science & Social Work

<http://mlismsw.wordpress.com>

About Me...



What Do Social Workers Do?

MICRO PRACTICE

- Boots on the ground
- Case work:
 - Meeting with clients
 - Connecting them to appropriate social service agencies
- Direct service at social service agencies
- Counseling (LICSW)

MACRO PRACTICE

- Policymaking
- Working administratively in government agencies
- Directing nonprofits
- Helping people by guiding how systems work

“Libraries are on the front line,
whether they want to [be] or not.”

- Jeremy Rosen, director of advocacy at the
National Law Center on Homelessness and
Poverty

Citation: [Public Libraries Add Social Workers and Social Programs](#)

Libraries with Social Workers

- San Francisco Public Library
- San Jose Public Library & San Jose State University
- Edmonton Public Library
- Washington DC Public Library
- Coming up: San Diego, Denver, Minneapolis
- Bonus: Dominican University has a joint MLIS/MSW program

Blog post: [Dominican University's Joint MLIS/MSW Program](#)

Social Workers Provide:

SUPPORT FOR PATRONS

- Make referrals
- Access case files
- Create welcoming atmosphere
- Provide job training

SUPPORT FOR STAFF

- Crisis management
- Reflection and counseling post-crisis
- Training on self-care, boundary setting, mental health, homelessness

Blog post: [Librarians : Patrons :: Social Workers : Clients](#)
Blog post: [An Interview with Carolyn Anthony, PLA President](#)

Librarians Provide

ACCESS TO CLIENTS

- Libraries are the initial point of access for people from all walks of life
- Urban libraries in particular are gathering places for people most in need of social services

INFORMATION NAVIGATION

- Social workers may build their information networks through relationships, rather than organized searching
- Social workers may not be trained on information literacy

Blog post: [Information Literacy Needs of Social Work Students](#)

Blog post: [Social Work and Academic Libraries](#)

Whole Person Librarianship

Librarians aren't social workers.

We don't need to be social workers.

We can work together and learn from each other.

We can celebrate our common history and shared social justice goals.

Blog post: [Public Librarians and Health Care: A Social Work Perspective](#)

Blog post: [Putting the Social in Social Science](#)

Models for Management

BUSINESS/CUSTOMER SERVICE

- Measurement based on profit
- Transactions
- Prioritizes the loudest voices

WHOLE PERSON LIBRARIANSHIP

- Measurement based on social science methodology
- Interactions
- Prioritizes the experience of each individual

Blog post: [Whole Person Librarianship: The Start of a Manifesto](#)

Blog post: [Recentring the Public Good](#)

Ongoing Questions

- Where do we draw the boundary between what librarians do and what social workers do?
- Where do we welcome overlap?
- What can we learn from social work theory and practice?
- What do we have to offer social workers?

Blog post: [Spectrum of Collaboration](#)

Blog post: ["I'm not a social worker, but I know how to find you one."](#)

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