

# ELMS Masters in Library and Information Science Scholarship Program

funded by the

**Institute of Museum and Library Services**

## APPLICATION MATERIALS

The University of North Texas College of Information - Department of Library and Information Sciences (UNT/DLIS), the UNT Libraries, and the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Library (UAMS) instituted this scholarship program to provide financial support to eligible residents of Arkansas and Western Tennessee seeking a graduate degree in library and information science. The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) wishes to provide support to recruit and educate the next generation of librarians. IMLS monies fund the scholarship.

## APPLICATION AND SCHOLARSHIP CONDITIONS

The ELMS Scholarship will pay tuition and fees up to \$12,000. Applicants must complete and submit an **original and two copies** of the application form (page 3 below) and all required materials (detailed on page 4-5 below).

**DEADLINE:** All ELMS scholarship application materials must be postmarked by **November 10, 2013**.

**In order to be eligible for the ELMS Scholarship, the applicant must:**

1. Be a resident of Arkansas or Middle and Western Tennessee (including all locations west of the Nashville-Davidson-Murfreesboro-Franklin Metropolitan area and/or Interstate 65).
2. Have a BA/BS degree completed prior to fall (December) 2013
3. Apply to and be accepted to the MLIS distance program at UNT and the ELMS cohort

**All ELMS Scholarship recipients must:**

1. Begin the UNT distance MLIS program in the spring of 2014 and complete the degree in summer 2016
2. Take two courses per semester and a total of 36 UNT credits in the ELMS cohort
3. Remain academically eligible and meet all UNT requirements including attendance at the cohort residency – web institutes to be held in Little Rock, Arkansas in January 2014 and June 2014
4. Agree to work in a library, information organization, or a closely related field in Arkansas or Middle and Western Tennessee (including all locations west of the Nashville-Davidson–Murfreeseboro–Franklin Metropolitan area and/or Interstate 65) in a full-time librarian, information professional, or other position for two years or 24 months after obtaining the graduate degree.

**All applications will be kept on file at the University of North Texas College of Information – Department of Library and Information Sciences, acting as ELMS project coordinator and fiscal agent.**

All applications must be typed. E-mailed applications will be acceptable with all materials digitized into electronic files in either htm or pdf. No faxed applications will be accepted.

**TO HELP INSURE THAT THE APPLICANT'S FILE IS COMPLETE BY THE DEADLINE, ALL DOCUMENTS MUST BE SUBMITTED IN ONE PACKAGE.**

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

To help insure that the applicant's file is complete by the deadline, all documents must be submitted in one package. Submit your complete application package to:

**Shipping Address (FedEx, UPS, etc.):**

Yvonne J. Chandler, Associate Professor & Project Director, ELMS Cohort Program  
UNT/ELMS Scholarship Program  
University of North Texas  
College of Information  
Department of Library and Information Sciences  
3940 N. Elm, E292  
Denton, TX 76207

**Mailing Address (USPS):**

Yvonne J. Chandler, Associate Professor & Project Director, ELMS Cohort Program  
UNT/ELMS Scholarship Program  
University of North Texas  
College of Information  
Department of Library and Information Sciences  
1155 Union Circle #311068  
Denton, TX 76203-5017

# ELMS MLIS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM APPLICATION FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Present Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: Work \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you learn about the ELMS MLIS Scholarship?

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Journal/Newsletter Article | <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Assoc. Conference | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Listserv: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Promotional Ads/Materials  | <input type="checkbox"/> Employer/Colleague/Friend      | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> UNT Recruiter/Presentation | <input type="checkbox"/> Arkansas State Library         | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ELMS Website               | Listserv  | _____  |
|   |   | _____  |

Have you submitted your application to the distance MLIS program at the University of North Texas?  
\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

Do you currently work or volunteer in a library? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

Do you work?  Full-time  Part-time  Volunteer

If yes, what is your job title: \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe your current job duties and responsibilities:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Ethnic background: For reporting purposes only, we would appreciate indication of which of the following groups best describes your ethnic background.

- African American
- American Indian/Alaska Native
- Asian
- Hispanic/Latino
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- White/Caucasian
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**In addition to the application form, applicants are required to include the following materials**

## **Part 1. EDUCATION AND WORK HISTORY**

Submit your resume including academic and work history and contact information for places of employment.

**Part 2. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT STATEMENT**

Summarize your participation in community and/or campus activities and/or community service organizations in the past three years.

**Part 3. ESSAY ON PURPOSE AND GOALS**

Include a copy of the essay submitted with your UNT MLIS application on your purpose and goals in applying to graduate school, the nature of your interest in library education, how you became interested in the field, your short-and long-term goals, the strengths you bring to the information profession, and how the UNT program will help you meet your career/education objectives.

**Part 4. SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY**

This essay is your opportunity to explain your interest in pursuing a career library and information services in. It is a very important part of the scholarship committee selection process. Submit a well thought out and formally written 1500 to 2000 word essay discussing the following questions:

**The goal of this program is to educate librarians to work in the middle south region with 21<sup>st</sup> century skills in digital curation and librarianship, data management, electronic resources management, and other emerging technologies. What is your vision for improving library and information services in the middle south region for the 21<sup>st</sup> century? How will developing your skills in librarianship and digital technologies identified in the grant contribute to the provision of information services in this region? What do you believe will be your specific contribution to improving information services and access in your community? Focus your essay on the type of library in which you are most interested in employment.**

**Part 5. LETTERS OF SUPPORT**

Three letters of recommendations are required to support your scholarship application. If possible, one recommendation should be from a current or former employer. Your letters of recommendation should address your reviewer's assessment of your ability to succeed in a distance learning master's degree program, interest and commitment to library and information services, and your interpersonal or communication skills. Members of your immediate family may not submit letters.

**Part 6.**

**AGREEMENT**

I have read and hereby accept the ELMS MLIS Scholarship application conditions that require me to:

- Be a resident of the middle south region that includes the state of Arkansas and Middle and Western Tennessee (including all locations west of the Nashville-Davidson–Murfreesboro–Franklin Metropolitan area and/or Interstate 65)
- Have a BA/BS degree completed prior to fall 2013.
- Apply to and be accepted to the MLIS distance program at UNT.
- Begin the UNT distance MLIS program in the spring of 2014 and complete the degree in summer 2016.
- Stay academically eligible and meet all UNT requirements for the master’s degree.
- Attend the cohort residency to be held at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in Little Rock, Arkansas in January and June 2014.
- Register for two courses per semester and complete a total of 36 UNT credit hours in the UNT/MLS program (included in ELMS Scholarship award).
- Become a member of the American Library Association, and the Arkansas or Tennessee State Library Association (included in ELMS Scholarship award).
- Attend all workshops and the culminating recognition event at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.
- Upon becoming a professional librarian serve as a mentor for other library professionals, library staff, and individuals interested in library and/or information science as a career.

**Employment Verification**

I agree that, upon completion of my graduate program, I will work in a library for 24 months after receiving my degree in Arkansas or Middle and Western Tennessee (including all locations west of the Nashville-Davidson–Murfreesboro–Franklin Metropolitan area and/or Interstate 65) Middle Tennessee. I will provide verification that I have obtained employment in an academic, public, school (K-12), or special library or other information environment in a full-time professional library position in this region.

I authorize investigation of all matters contained in this application and agree that if any misrepresentation has been made by me herein or the investigation results are not satisfactory, this application will be considered void and any scholarship offer withdrawn.

I agree to notify the University of North Texas College of Information of all changes in my academic status which occur during and after the period in which my application is being considered. I understand the scholarship may be withdrawn if I fail to report such changes.

I understand that my application will be considered void if all required materials listed in the scholarship application instructions are not postmarked by November 10, 2013.

I understand that my application will be reviewed by the Scholarship Selection Committee for the UNT/IMLS ELMS Scholarship Program. I authorize my scholarship application information to be shared with the Selection Committee.

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Signature of Applicant

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Printed Name of Applicant

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Date

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**APPLICANT CHECK SHEET** Note: Applicants must submit the following materials before being considered for receiving a scholarship award. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

**TO HELP INSURE THAT THE APPLICANT'S FILE IS COMPLETE BY THE DEADLINE, ALL DOCUMENTS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED IN ONE PACKAGE.**

- Application form
- Résumé (Education & Work History)
- Community Involvement Statement
- Essay on Purpose & Goals
- Essay on Library Services in Your State
- Signed Agreement
- Letters of Recommendation/Support (3)  
Names:
  1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
  3. \_\_\_\_\_

Applicants who have completed the application requirements listed above will be rated on the following criteria:

POINTS	CRITERION
	Potential for academic and professional employment success (resume)
	Community involvement (examples of community service)
	Successful employment and indication of future employment success (work history, purpose and goals)
	Understanding of impact of technology and digital curation on library services (library services)
	Communication skills – written (entire application)
	Recommendations (letters of support)
	Current library position meets employment requirement (application form)
	Total points possible

### **ELMS MLIS SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 10, 2013**

The ELMS MLIS Scholarship Program is funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

To help insure that the applicant's file is complete by the deadline, all documents must be submitted in one package. Submit your complete application package to:

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