

Library Technician

Run the day to day of a library: the desk, the catalogue, the collection. Two years of college and you are working.

TYPICAL PAY

\$58,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$42k to \$76k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

2 years

after high school

DEMAND

Moderate

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

Public libraries, colleges, schools, hospitals, law firms

How you get there

- 1 High school diploma** Grade 12
English is the main requirement. Good computer skills help more than you would guess.
- 2 Apply to a library technician program** Months ahead
Some programs ask for a letter about why you want the field, an interview and a written test. Seats fill fast.
- 3 Two-year diploma** 2 years
Cataloguing, reference, library software, collections and serving the public. Several colleges offer it online or part time.
- 4 Field placement**
Placements in real libraries, usually unpaid and required to graduate. They are also how most people get hired.
- 5 First job** Months to 2 years
Often casual or part-time shifts at first, then a permanent posting.

Pros and cons

- + Two cheap years and you are qualified
- + Public sector pay grid, pension and benefits
- + Calm, varied and genuinely useful work
- Pay tops out around \$76,000 and stays there
- A lot of casual and part-time work at the start
- Public branches deal with hard situations and difficult behaviour

Good to know

The programs are oversubscribed

Langara College in Vancouver closed its fall 2026 intake because of demand and pushed applicants to later starts. Apply early and treat the deadline as real.

One national recipe

Canadian library technician programs follow guidelines written by the Canadian Federation of Library Associations, so a diploma from Seneca in Toronto and one from Langara in Vancouver cover much t...

Optional boosts

Cataloguing and metadata. Electronic resources. Law or hospital libraries. Archives and local history.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Library technician, wages (updated Nov 2025)
Seneca Polytechnic: Library and Information Technician diploma
Langara College: Library and Information Technology diploma
Canadian Federation of Library Associations

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in Canadian dollars, based on Government of Canada Job Bank wage data and published salary grids. They vary by province, employer and experience. Tuition is for domestic students. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/ca/careers/library-technician>



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