

Library Technician

Run the desk, the catalog and the shelves. The job that keeps a library working, reachable with a two-year degree.

TYPICAL PAY

\$44,580

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$29k to \$63k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

1 to 2 years

after high school

DEMAND

Limited

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

**Public libraries, school libraries,
college libraries, government and...**

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grade 12
English and computer classes. Get a job shelving books as a page, which is how a large share of this workforce started.
- 2 Certificate or associate degree** 1 to 2 years
A one-year certificate or a two-year associate degree in library and information technology at a community college. Many run fully online.
- 3 First technician post** After the qualification
Circulation, interlibrary loan, processing or media support. You will learn one library's catalog system in depth.
- 4 Pick a technical area** 2 to 4 years in
Cataloging and metadata, the library management system, or public technology help. This is what moves you off the front desk.
- 5 Decide about the master's** Optional, 2 years
If you want to be a librarian rather than a technician, you will need an accredited master's degree. Many people do it part time while working.

Pros and cons

- + One or two years of cheap training and you are qualified
- + Useful, public-facing work in a place people trust
- + Public and school employers bring pensions and benefits
- Pay is modest and the bottom tenth is under \$30,000
- Employment is projected to decline slightly through 2034
- Many posts are part time or split between branches

Good to know

It is slowly shrinking

About 78,600 library technicians work in the United States and federal projections expect a decline of around 1 percent through 2034. There are still roughly 13,000 openings a year, almost all of them replacing...

The entry requirement is genuinely mixed

Asked what their job required, 30 percent of technicians said a bachelor's degree, 28 percent said an associate degree and 17 percent said a certificate. In practice many libraries hire on experience and tr...

Optional boosts

Cataloging and metadata. Library management systems. Public technology support. Children's and teen programming.

Where these numbers come from

My Next Move: Library Technicians (25-4031.00)

O*NET OnLine: Library Technicians

American Library Association: accredited programs

American Library Association Allied Professional Association: certification

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in United States dollars, based on Bureau of Labor Statistics wage data and published pay scales. They vary by state, employer and experience. Tuition is for in-state students at public schools unless the card says otherwise. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/us/careers/library-technician>



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