



**Supplemental Information for
Master's in Library & Information Science (MLIS) Fellowships in
Early Childhood Librarianship
Morgridge College of Education
Library & Information Science Program**

As a specialization, DU-LIS is one of the first MLIS programs in the country to develop coursework and learning experiences in an interdisciplinary, experiential learning framework in consultation with public library, child development, and, early childhood education partners. A more detailed description of this grant-funded program is found at the end of this document.

These fellowships will be awarded to the applicants who provide evidence of potential excellence in early childhood librarianship. A team of practitioners and LIS educators will interview applicants for these fellowships. Recommendations will be made to the DU LIS faculty for final award. Fellowship applicants must also be accepted into the DU MLIS program, with a separate interview process associated with that admission decision.

Fellowship Components (total of 10 Fellowships)

Funding for tuition for 58-credit Master's in Library & Information Science at U. Denver – IMLS
Stipend for service in public libraries & preschools – IMLS (\$7,500 per year for 2 years)
Funding for travel and attendance at Colorado Association of Libraries and American Library Association annual conferences – IMLS & DU
Funding for Spanish-language coursework – DU
Funding for book award (\$1,000 per year for 2 years) – DU

Student Service Expectations

Fellows will be required to agree to the following conditions:

1. Academic standards of DU and the DU-MLIS program will be met.
2. A full-time student status (8 credits per term) is required.
3. If all degree requirements are not met within the time frame of the project, any additional tuition or fees are the responsibility of the Fellow.
4. Fellows are required to take 6 academic credits of conversational Spanish within the timeframe of the MLIS. These credits will not count toward the MLIS degree. Tuition for these Spanish language credits will be reimbursed by the DU-LIS program. If the Fellow is already fluent in Spanish, this requirement may be waived.
5. Fellows will be paid an annual stipend of \$7,500 for two academic years. This stipend is compensation for the time each Fellow will spend supporting the work of the host institutions as the Fellow learns about early childhood librarianship.
6. Performance evaluations conducted by supervising faculty, public librarian partners, and preschool partners will indicate satisfactory quality of work.
8. At least one conference presentation will be submitted and accepted.
9. Job placement requirements will be fulfilled.
10. For 5 years post-graduation, participate in an annual follow-up survey.

Early Childhood Librarianship: An Interdisciplinary, Experiential Learning MLIS

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The lead applicant is the University of Denver Library and Information Science Program in partnership with Arapahoe Library District, Clayton Early Learning Institute, Colorado Libraries for Early Literacy, Colorado State Library, Denver Preschool Program, Douglas County Libraries, Family Educational Network of Weld County, and, the Marsico Institute for Early Learning & Literacy. The time frame for this project is July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2012. The community need addressed by this project is the demand for more public librarians to help very young children acquire early literacy skills. The primary goal of this project is to increase the number of Master's in Library & Information Science (MLIS)-degreed librarians who are prepared to serve the early literacy needs of very young children (0-5 years), caregivers, families, educators, and community coalitions in Colorado. This goal will be achieved with funding support for 10 student fellowships for completion of the DU MLIS using experiential learning in at least 5 partner public libraries and at least 5 early childhood education centers, and, an interdisciplinary curriculum including LIS coursework and Child, Family, and School Psychology (CFSP) coursework in brain development, language acquisition, and, special needs. Early literacy skills improve learning achievement and enhance the joy of reading, yet, many young children are disadvantaged in acquiring these skills. Furthermore, most MLIS programs in the U.S. provide only one or two courses in early childhood library services. This project is designed to provide fellowship recipients with extensive coursework and direct experiences in the settings most pertinent to early childhood literacy. The coursework has been chosen to include classes in brain research and child development in order to better understand some of the principles behind framework such as Every Child Ready to Read©. MLIS fellows will be placed in public libraries and preschools, with an emphasis on diversity of programs and populations. Fellows will also take conversational Spanish, as Colorado and other states have a significant percentage of Spanish speaking residents.

A secondary goal is to increase the knowledge and skills of public librarians, early childhood educators, families, and, caregivers in order to encourage the development of young children's early literacy skills. This goal will be achieved through the development of guidelines and training programs by the PI, Co-PIs, Consultants, Internal Planning Team, External Planning Team, and the Fellows. These guidelines will be incorporated into instructional sessions for the targeted groups. The strengths of this project include the highly critical need for early childhood librarians, the unique configuration of partners, and, the experiential learning component.



The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. The Institute's mission is to create strong libraries and museums that connect people to information and ideas.