

LIBRARIES, MUSEUMS AND ARCHIVES

- **Museums** – there are many different roles that may match your skills and experience. A curator manages a collection of artefacts, an exhibitions officer or assistant will think about how best to display the items to help inform and educate the public and marketing officers who aim to get the items seen by as many people as possible. In smaller museums these job roles can be combined and in larger museums there could be additional roles, such as a museum education officer.
- **Libraries** – public libraries acquire, organise, promote and disseminate a wide range of resources to meet the diverse needs of the community. They support independent learning and encourage reader development. As a university librarian you may specialise in a subject area and teach students research skills.
- **Archives** – archivists accumulate, organise and care for documents that have historical value. They safeguard this material for future generations and ensure that the archive is accessible to users.

For these career areas it is essential that you have relevant work experience as demand for trainee positions outweighs supply. Further down the line you could consider also professional postgraduate training to help progress your career.

Key Resources

- [Museumsassociation.org](https://www.museumsassociation.org) (This has great careers information, especially the section ‘Getting started with your career’. There is also a jobs board covering heritage, museums and galleries, arts and culture).
- [Prospects.ac.uk’s guide to careers in the museum and heritage sector](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/guides/careers-in-the-museum-and-heritage-sector)
- [Museumjobs.com](https://www.museumjobs.com) (Advertises jobs in museums, galleries, libraries and archives).
- [University of Leicester Museum Studies Jobs Desk](https://www.le.ac.uk/museumstudies/jobsdesk) (Has an extensive range of both national and international vacancies for volunteering, internships and permanent jobs in museums and galleries).
- [National Museum Directors’ Council \(nationalmuseums.org.uk/jobs\)](https://www.nationalmuseums.org.uk/jobs) (Advertises opportunities in national and major regional museums, libraries, archives and galleries and has news items about the sector).
- [Artsjob.org.uk/search](https://www.artsjob.org.uk/search) (Arts Council job site with vacancies and voluntary positions in libraries, museums and other arts-related jobs).

- [Archives & Records Association \(archives.org.uk\)](http://archives.org.uk) (This is the lead professional body for archivists, archive conservators and records managers in the UK and Ireland. They have a careers section and also a list of placement opportunities and job vacancies).
- [The library and information association \(cilip.org.uk\)](http://cilip.org.uk) (This has an extensive careers section and advertises job vacancies).
- [Imperial War Museum \(iwm.org.uk/corporate/jobs\)](http://iwm.org.uk/corporate/jobs) (Individual museums advertise vacancies on their website).
- [The Museum of English Rural Life \(MERL\)](http://merl.org.uk) (This local museum is based on Redlands Road and takes a number of students on its volunteer programme. Their [video clip](#) shows you what's involved).
- ScienceMuseumGroup.org.uk/work-for-us (Jobs and volunteering opportunities).
- English-heritage.org.uk/about-us/jobs/ (Advertises volunteering and job opportunities that can provide excellent experience for museums, galleries and archive work).
- Historicenvironment.scot/about-us/work-with-us (The lead public body set up to investigate, care for and promote Scotland's historic environment. Advertises jobs and volunteering opportunities).

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