Libraries, Museums and Archives

**Museums** – there are many different roles within museums that might appeal to you. 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 there will be 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 other job roles such as a ‘museums’ education officer’.

**Libraries** – public librarians 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 relevant work experience is vital as demand for these trainee positions outweighs supply. Further down the line you could consider professional postgraduate training courses and these can be essential to progress your career.

**Key Resources**

- **The Museums Associations**
  This has great careers information specially the section ‘Getting started with your career’. There is also a jobs board covering heritage, museums and galleries, arts and culture

- **Museum Jobs**
  Advertises jobs in museums, galleries, libraries and archives

- **University of Leicester School of Museum Studies Jobs Desk**
  Has an extensive range of both national and international vacancies for volunteering, internships and permanent jobs in museums and galleries

- **National Museum Job Directors’ Council**
  Advertises opportunities in national and major regional museums, libraries and archives and galleries and has news items about the sector

- **Arts Job Finder**
  Arts Council job site with vacancies in libraries, museums and other arts related jobs

- **Archives and Records Association**
  This is the lead professional body for archivists, archive conservators and records managers in the United Kingdom and Ireland. They have a careers section and also a list of placement opportunities and job vacancies

Access this page and more industries at [reading.ac.uk/careers/resources](http://reading.ac.uk/careers/resources)
The Chartered Institute of Library and Record Management Professionals (CILIP)
This has a Careers section and Lisjobnet advertises job vacancies.

Historic Environment Scotland
The lead public body set up to investigate, care for and promote Scotland’s historic environment. Advertises jobs and volunteering opportunities

Imperial War Museums
Some museums, like this one, advertise vacancies directly on their website

Museum of English Rural Life (MERL)
This museum is based on London Road and takes a number of students as volunteers. See their video clip on their home page to see what’s involved

The Science Museum
This has an excellent section on jobs and careers in museums

English Heritage
Advertises volunteering and job opportunities that can provide excellent experience for museums, galleries and archive work

You may also be interested in...

- Creative Arts
- Government and Public Administration