

# Class of 2013 Employment Report

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

SCHOOL OF  
information

The Class of 2013 was comprised of 91 MS and PhD graduates from May, August, and December of 2013. The School of Information Career Development Office officially surveyed these graduates in August of 2013 and there were 67 respondents representing a 70% response rate. Partial data on 18 graduates was collected manually through emails, phone calls, in-person visits, and social media. This report includes basic employment data on all 87 respondents (both formal and informal), which accounts for 96% of the class and is thereby representative of the cohort.

## **Key Points:**

- Employment prospects are healthy; graduates assume a huge diversity of job titles and positions in a wide range of industries
- Starting salaries vary widely with the private sector accounting for higher salaries
- iSchoolers spend an average of 4.5 months job searching
- The vast majority (69%) of students begin their job search at least 2 months before graduation
- Information Science is the first professional career for 53% of our graduates
- Job satisfaction is reportedly high at 84% satisfied
- Texas retained 60% of our graduates; the rest are sprinkled across the country
- An internship and/or the capstone experience was reported to be the most helpful activity in obtaining employment
- Networking impacts employment outcomes with 27% of graduates securing employment with an organization with which they had prior experience (including internships)

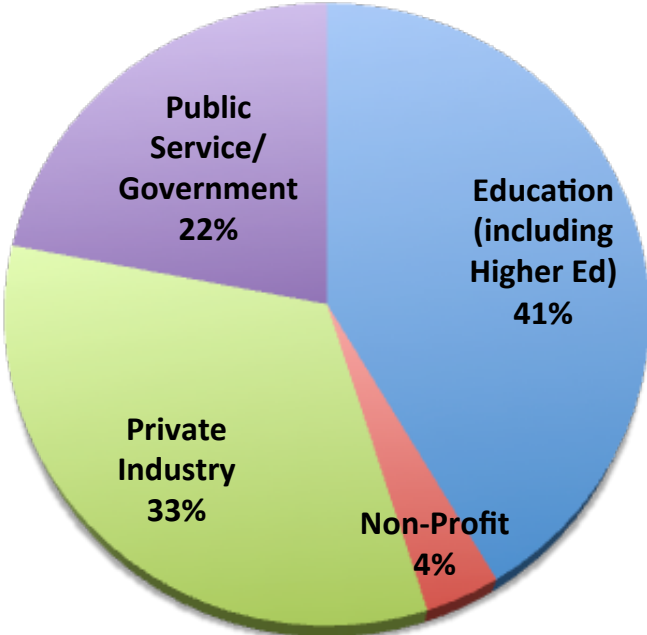
## **How long did it take to secure a job in 2013?**

- ✧ 40% employed prior to graduation
- ✧ 67% employed within 3 months of graduation
- ✧ 81% employed within 6 months of graduation
- 95% employed within 9 months of graduation

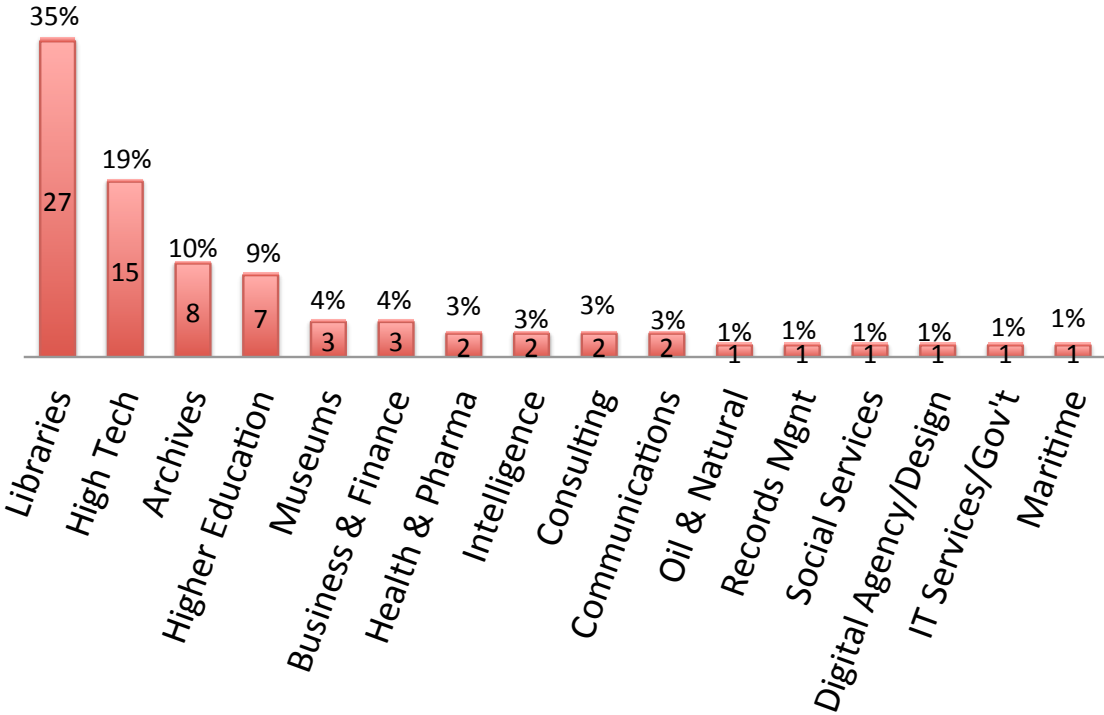
The tech community continued to seek out and absorb many of our graduates. Technical skill sets were also in demand from libraries and archives; even librarians reported UX-related skills as one of their top 3 skill sets used on the job. The class of 2013 by and large was a savvy group who knew they had to bolster their technical skills to gain a competitive edge in the marketplace.

The interdisciplinary nature of the iSchool prepares graduates for a wide range of careers and the diverse skill sets of iSchool talent are valued in many industries. The versatility of the program allows grads to switch fields readily and take advantage of the opportunities offered by the Austin tech community and beyond.

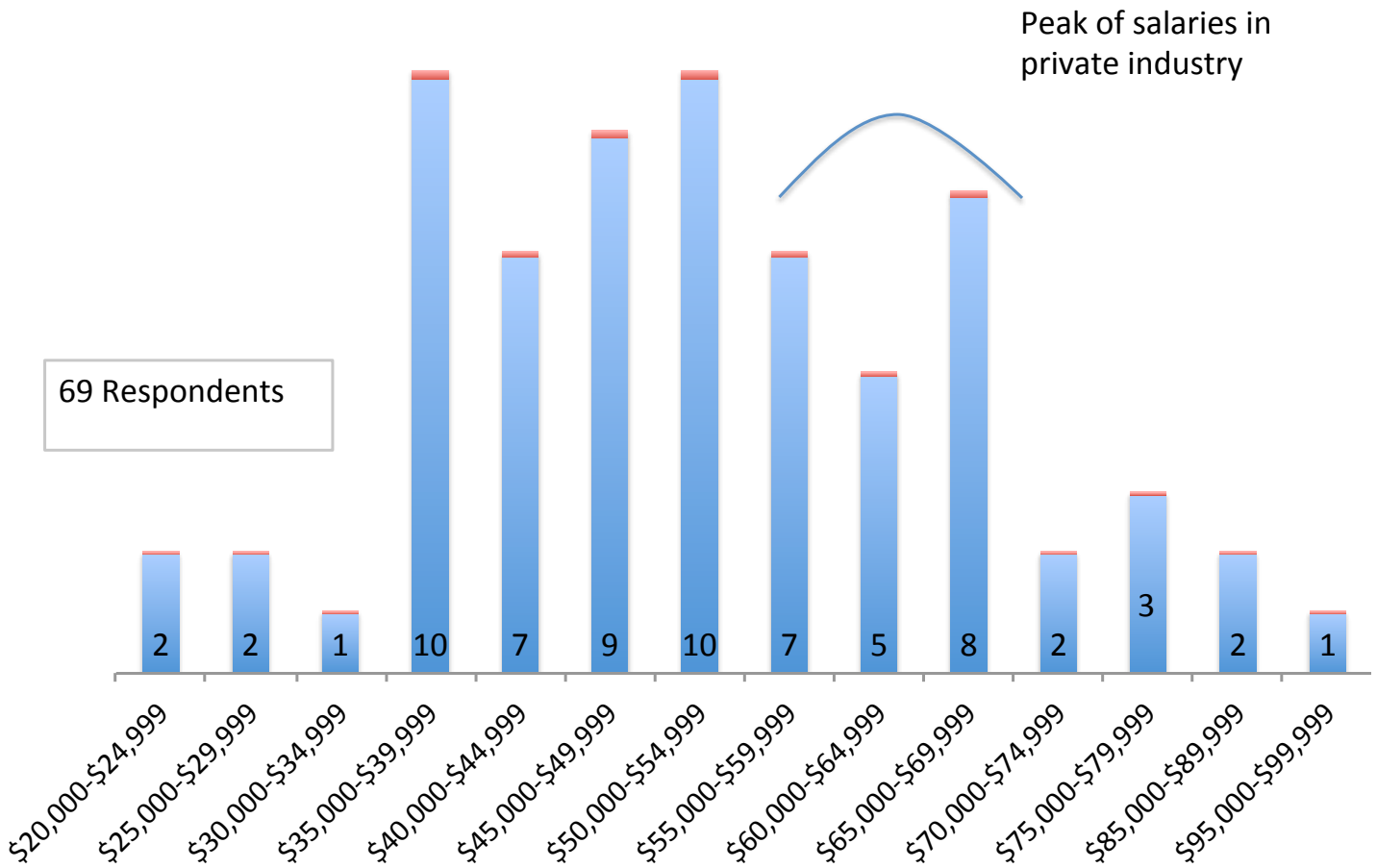
# Employment Sectors - 2013



# Placement by Employing Industry - 2013

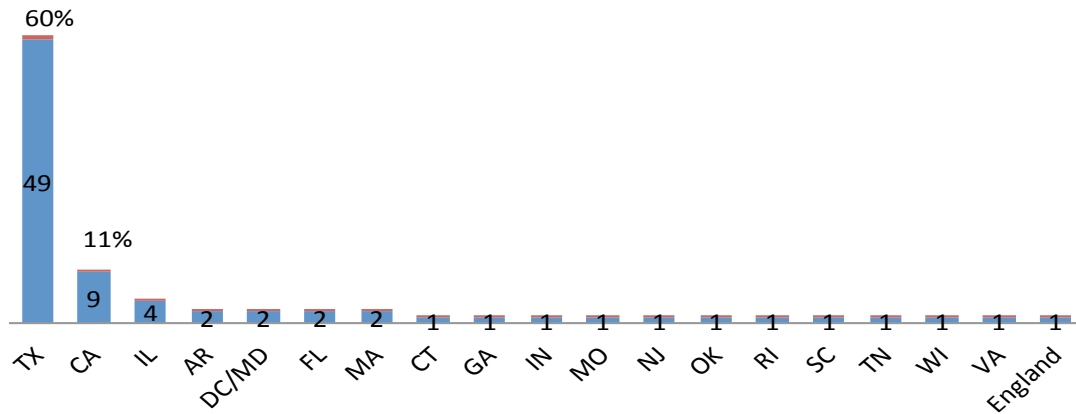


# Starting Salaries - 2013

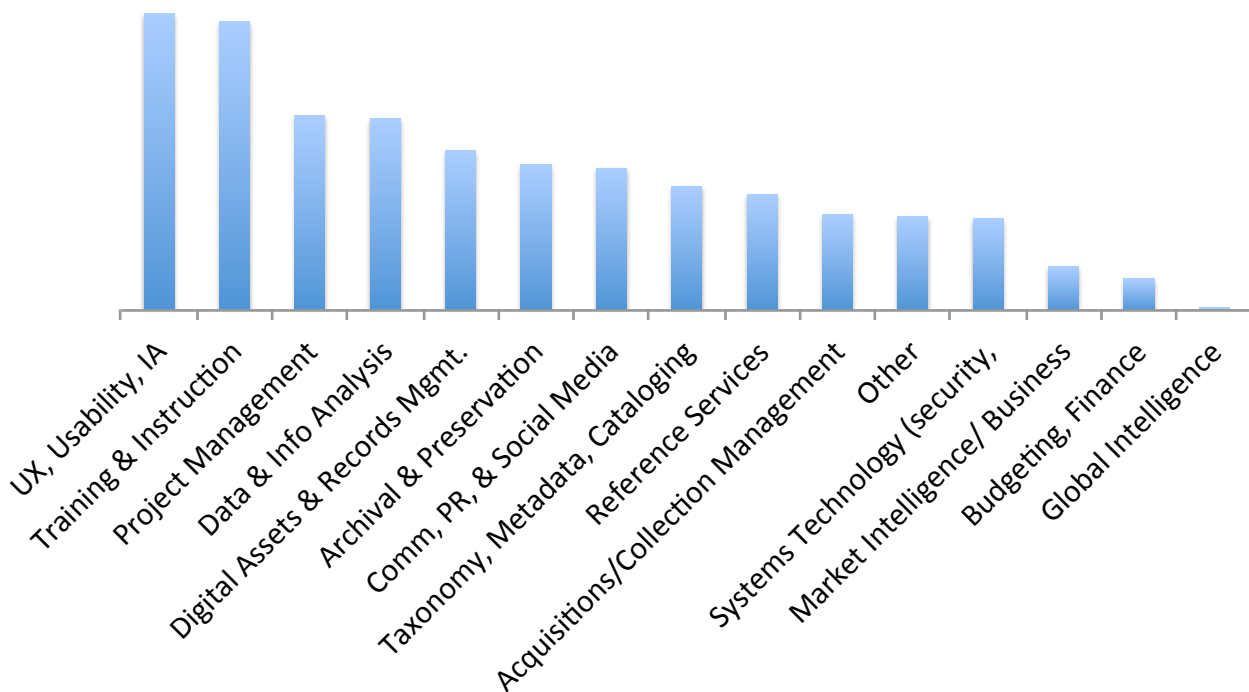


- ∞ Vary widely by position and industry
- ∞ Reflect choice of lower-paying positions in archives, public libraries and non-profits
- ∞ 77% make at least \$40,000
- ∞ All those who earn more than \$65,000 work outside of cultural heritage environments

## Placement by Geography - 2013

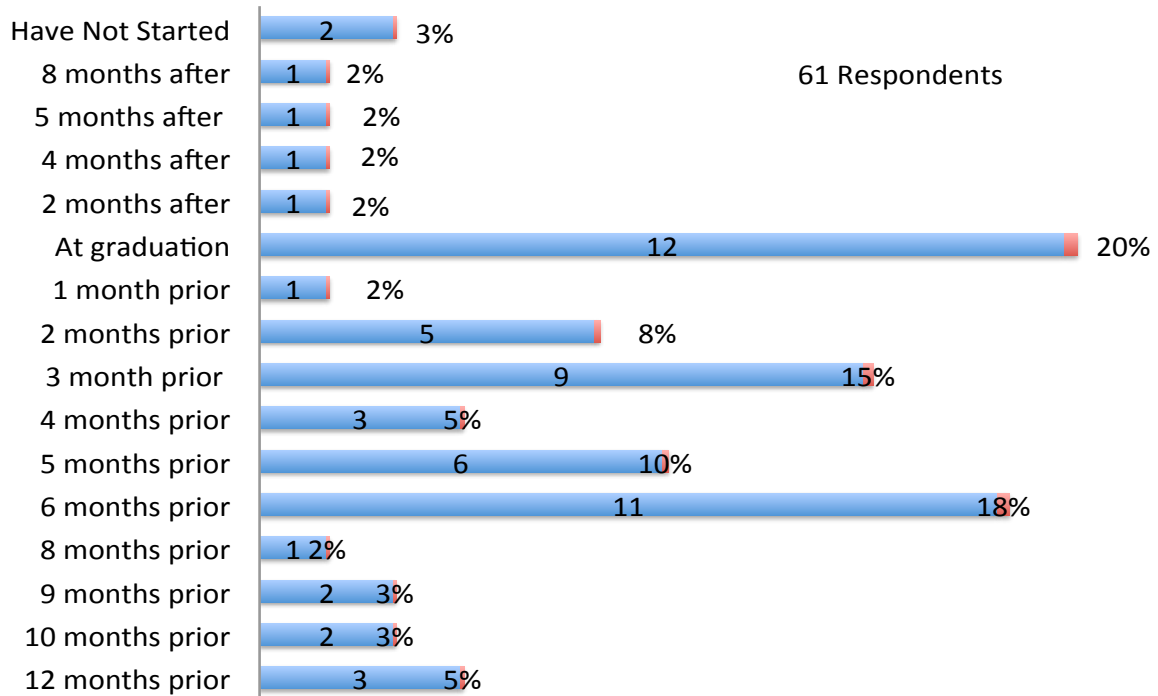


## Skills Utilized for Job - 2013

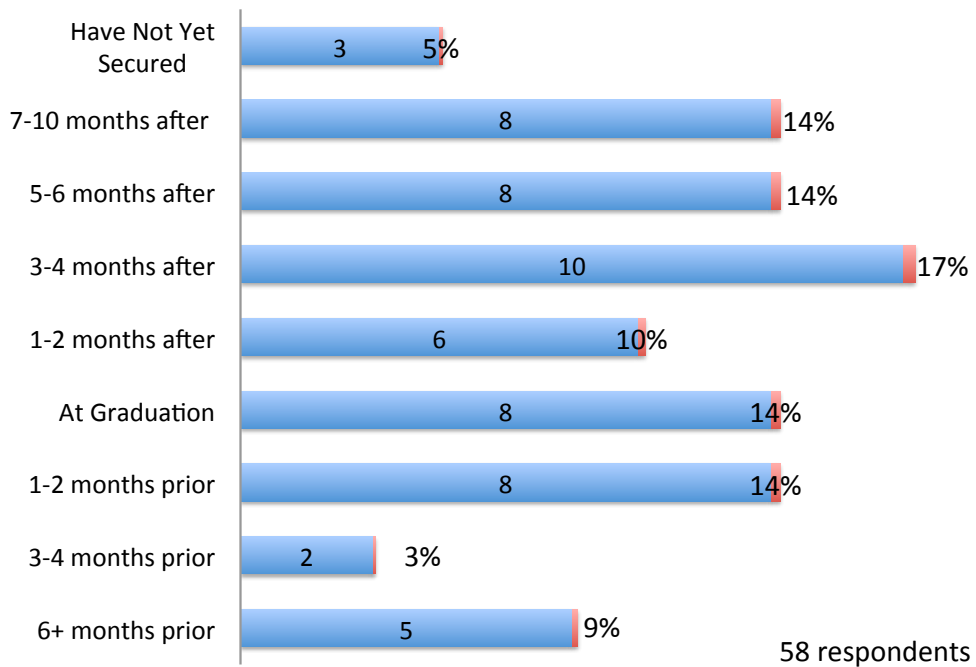


\*Graduates were asked to indicate time spent on skill sets

## Starting Job Search in Relation to Graduation 2013



## Secured Employment Timeline - 2013



## Advice from the Class of 2013

To have patience and value the experience interview processes provide even if you do not ultimately obtain the position.

Start early. Make sure to have some sort of volunteering, internship, or job during your time at the iSchool. If you don't get in somewhere, try finding out what qualification you were missing. Not every potential employer will share this information, but some do, and it can be helpful in discovering topics you need to spend more time on.

Austin is a very competitive environment for public libraries.

I submitted at least 250 applications and did 10 or so interviews, but I got my shot at an interview because of an internship I had applied for and the HR Director had remembered me and contact me out of the blue.

Start early and don't let rejection get you down. Consider jobs other than your preferred position and look for skills you can gain that will get you closer to your desired position.

Tell students to start early and be persistent.

The employer that hired me really valued the hands-on experience I got in the UT library as a GRA.

Tara was amazingly helpful at helping me shape my resume and cover letter.

I was hired for an internship by someone in attendance at our Capstone Poster Session. At the end of the summer internship, they hired me on full-time.

Since this isn't my first career, and my current career is highly related to my previous roles, I was able to use my connections in the industry and in the city to find the right job for me.

I became employed at this company prior to entry to the iSchool, in an entry-level position. I have been promoted and given more responsibilities as my skills increased.

Work in your field during grad school. This is essential!! Generally, you will start out volunteering.

Get started early. Search actively. Utilize career services!

Interviewing is a two-way street. I was able to get less stressed out by thinking about how I was going to interview a potential employer. Of course, you want to be very well-prepared and follow Tara's advice, but remember that you interview to make sure the job will be a good fit for you.

Searching for a job is more about getting in the right position and then showing what you can do than the other way around. Being great on interviews is key, but sometimes it is either luck or personal connections that get people the access to the interview. Meeting as many people as possible is the most important thing.

Volunteering and part-time work, while the last thing a post-grad really wants to do, are still the best ways to get your name and work ethic known around different institutions. I received about fifty rejection letters during my job search. After volunteering, I landed a fellowship, which eventually led me to my full time job.

I received invaluable training and mentoring by the UT librarians and library specialist I worked with while in school.

Job shadowing is a great way to get your foot in the door of an organization. I spent about two weeks learning from the Records Manager at my company when I was still job searching so I could gain experience. That opportunity helped me become the new Records Manager when the position opened up.

Without my GRA position at the PCL, there is no way I would have been considered for the position I currently hold. Not only did it give me library experience, my mentor networked to find me part-time work in Austin while I continued my job search after graduation. And then those employers' positive recommendations were a boost to my job search as well.