

Report for the AAHSL Leadership Scholarship

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I had the pleasure to attend the Harvard Graduate School of Education's [Leadership Institute for Academic Librarians \(LIAL\)](#) on July 27-August 1, 2025. This institute was an incredible opportunity to learn from leaders in and out of the field of librarianship and provided great aid to my work as a library leader seeking to develop myself further in this area. One particularly useful session I have been able to put to use immediately was on the SHIFT Framework (<https://reworkingleadership.com/>). Prior to arriving at the institute, participants completed the SHIFT Snapshot. From this assessment, participants learned which characteristics we tend to apply when leading at work as well as mechanisms to help ground ourselves in times of stress. The cohort applied the knowledge at the institute as facilitated and led by executive coach, Rachael Lowell. I found all of the activities surrounding this session particularly useful.

Additional sessions were extremely valuable to my work as a library leader with takeaways including ensuring I am an authentic leader, leading with empathy, managing relationships particularly in times of change, and doing what I can to ensure that my employees and I do not hit burnout at work. A particularly enjoyable activity was developing a collaborative zine, which I believe would be a fun and engaging activity to have as staff development and separately to facilitate for students, as well. Harvard's campus was beautiful and inspiring. In addition to participating in the sessions with my library colleagues, I attended a tour of the Widener Library (which is not open to the public), the [Harvard Art Museums](#), and Harvard's [Museum of Natural History](#). In each, I discovered ideas of how materials were exhibited that I am able to take back to my institution.

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