Undergraduate Library Internships and Professional Success

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Abstract
This poster reports on an assessment completed of former undergraduate library interns to explore the impact their internship had on the development of career goals, acceptance to and preparation for graduate education, and their early career. Through an online survey (n=45) and six semi-structured telephone interviews, respondents reported a positive impact on the above areas.

Keywords
Library internships, undergraduate library internships, library assessment, library value, library impact

Disciplines
Educational Assessment, Evaluation, and Research | Higher Education | Liberal Studies | Library and Information Science

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Undergraduate Library Internships and Professional Success

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Overall and Career Satisfaction with Internship

* Very satisfied (66.7%) or Satisfied (13.3%)

How much the internship positively impacted decision to pursue a career in libraries, archives, museums, or a related field

Very much (48.4%) or Quite a bit (25.5%)

How much the internship positively impacted career

Very much (35.8%) or Quite a bit (34.8%)

Current Position

How much the internship helped to obtain first professional position in libraries, archives, or a related field

Very much (48.4%) or Quite a bit (22.3%)

Graduate Education

How much internship positively impacted acceptance to graduate program

Very much (34.8%) or Quite a bit (25.4%)

As a previous Library intern, what does you especially value about your internship experience at Musselman Library?

Marking a Personal Experience

I felt like I was a part of the library, and I felt like I was just part of the staff.

The internship allowed me to learn a lot of the software, the techniques, and the tools that are used in libraries.

Seeing the Big Picture

I got to learn more in each different department and really figure out which one...the staff, the librarians, were so encouraging...and then I took the internship...and really satisfied my desire to be a librarian.

Being Prepared for Graduate School

I felt I was learning about the internship...I was more prepared for graduate school.

Because I got all of those different experiences at a small library, I was more ready to do it...in a way that I wanted to do as a professional librarian.

I already had a really good foundation of knowledge...when I started grad school that a lot of my peers didn't have...