Undergraduate Library Internships and Professional Success

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Undergraduate Library Internships and Professional Success

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

Comments

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Undergraduate Library Internships and Professional Success

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Robert ‘44 and Elmer Ryon Forbang ‘46 Internship Semester-long (8 hours per week), paid internship for a current student, opportunity to work is a specific library department, such as Special Collections & Archives, Research & Instruction, Music, and Technical Services, as well as other areas like marketing and exhibits.

Diane Womack ‘73 Internship in Special Collections Semester-long, paid internship (10 weeks) for a current student in Intern in Special Collections.

Klingberg, 2011
Sargent, Becker, & Leonard & Pontau, 1991

Very much (68.6%) or Quite a bit

The poster and full bibliography are available on Gettysburg’s IR at: http://cupola.gettysburg.edu/librarypubs/53

How much did your internship(s) help you to identify possible areas of specialization within the academic, archivist, or museum that reached your work-related interest?

For intern in your current position do you draw upon the skills you learned during your internship(s)?

How much did your internship(s) prepare you for your graduate program(s)?

how many how long your internship positively impacted your career?

Having a Personalized Experience

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

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

I was using the internship to step into the profession [and] it really helped me subject my decision to pursue a career.

I got to learn so much in each different department and everybody there—the staff, the librarians, were so encouraging that I felt like exploring and learn new things and try new things.

The way the reference desk really helped me understand how to research things in a systematic and efficient way.

I felt like being prepared for graduate school

I really felt having done the internship I was a lot more prepared for graduate school.

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

The literature review and full bibliography are available on Gettysburg’s IR at: http://cupola.gettysburg.edu/librarypubs/53

Overall and Career

Satisfaction with internship

Very satisfied (86.6%) or Satisfied (13.3%)

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

Very much (88.8%) or Quite a bit (7.0%)

How much the internship positively impacted career

Very much (55.5%) or Quite a bit (34.6%)

Current Position

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

Very much (48.4%) or Quite a bit (22.6%)

How often intern draws upon the skills related field

Very much (48.4%) or Quite a bit (22.6%)

Graduate Education

How much internship positively influenced acceptance to graduate program

Very much (38.4%) or Quite a bit (20.8%)

Research Question

What impact does completing an undergraduate library internship have on:

• Preparation and success in graduate or other advanced training

• Career and professional goals

• Early professional employment and success

Library?***

With your internship(s) at Musselman Library?

• Having a Personalized Experience

• Being Prepared for Graduate School

• Confusing Career Choice

• Being Prepared for Graduate School

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