6-23-2016

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

Comments

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## Undergraduate Library Internships and Professional Success

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### Research & Instruction Librarian

**Zin量子**

**Cataloging & Collections Librarian**

**Timelines**

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Identify research questions &amp; outcomes</td>
<td>Design survey and interview schedule</td>
<td>Complete 88 applications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Bastion, 2002)</td>
<td>(Lanier &amp; Henderson, 1999)</td>
<td>(Kopp &amp; Murphy, 2012)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Method

**Online Survey**

- 29 items
- Stay logic applied
- Open for 5 weeks
- Sent to 83 previous interns who received 85 complete responses (54.3%) & 63 returning surveys

**Interviews**

- Conducted semi-structured interviews
- Subjects represented a range of graduation years, current profession, and internship type
- Schedule included 6 questions about overall experience, impact on graduate school and early career, and skills adopted

### Survey Question

**Overall and Career Satisfaction**

- **Very satisfied** (68.7%) or **Satisfied** (13.8%)

### Literature Review

- **Archives**
  - Beaton, 2002
- **Government Libraries**
  - Grippi, 2012
- **US Education**
  - Lemons & Fantas, 1991
  - Sarson, Soren, & Klingleberg, 2011
  - Bird & Compton, 2014

### Grad (US) Undergrad

- **Resident/Intern**
  - Albott, 1991
  - Lanier & Henderson, 1999
- **Music**
  - Sextich & Tarsæn, 2014
- **Special Collections**
  - Kopp & Murphy, 2012

### Graduation Position

- Importance: 3.85
  - Only One: 3.10
  - 4.00
  - 2.71
  - **3.62**

### Final Results

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

### How much the internship positively impacted career

- **How much the internship positively impacted acceptance to a graduate program**
  - **Kop & Murphy, 2012**
- **How much the internship positively impacted preparing for your graduate program**
  - **Zin quantum**

### Mean Comparison Responses on Post-Graduate Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Survey Question</th>
<th>Internship Type</th>
<th>Internship Area</th>
<th>Overall responses</th>
<th>Mean</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How much did your internship help you to identify possible areas of specialization in libraries, archives, or museums that matched your work-related interest?</td>
<td>Non-HYCO</td>
<td>HYCO</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>3.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How often in your current position do you draw upon the skills you learned during your internship?</td>
<td>3.10</td>
<td>3.62</td>
<td>3.07</td>
<td>3.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How much did your graduate program prepare you for your graduate program?</td>
<td>3.10</td>
<td>3.82</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>3.85</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Acknowledgements

- Dr. Chris Zappe
  - Executive Director of the Center of Career Development
- Salas Ding
  - Director of Institutional Analysis
- Kathy Williams
  - Executive Director of the Center of Career Development
- Brian Wagner
  - Dean of Musselman Library
- Janine Biskupiak
  - Associate Dean of University Libraries
- Bethany Elder
  - Assistant Director of Institutional Analysis

### Conclusions and Next Steps

- **Draw library internships are designed to support best practices identified by previous interns (being paid, being valued as a colleague, working in multiple areas, tailoring the internship to personal interests and goals, feeling ownership over their work, etc.)**
- **Share results and connect with campus colleagues who support internships in other areas (Center for Public Service, Civil War Institute, Career Development, and others)**

## The poster and full bibliography are available on Gettysburg’s IR at:

- https://irgettysburg.org/handle/1722.1/15053