# Destination Librarian: Helping Others on the Road to Librarianship

Barbara Rochen Renner<sup>1,2</sup>, Lee Richardson<sup>1</sup>, Jennifer Walker<sup>1</sup>, and Michele Clark<sup>2</sup>

UNC Chapel Hill Health Sciences Library<sup>1</sup> UNC Chapel Hill School of Medicine<sup>2</sup>



#### Introduction

This poster shares experience coordinating non-paid experiences in a Health Sciences Library for students and others considering careers in libraries and shares a library career guide.

Health Sciences librarian with training and experience in mentoring was asked to coordinate requests for non-paid experiential opportunities.

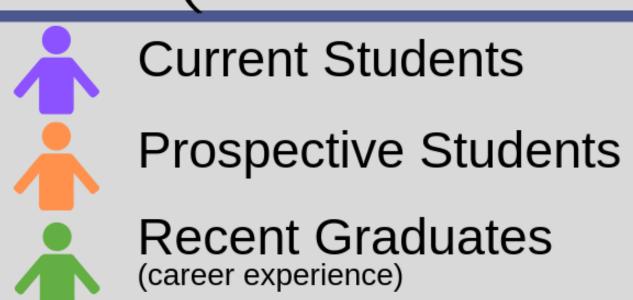
- Point of contact (via website)
- Prompts students for relevant information
- Sends info to relevant units, projects, librarians who can choose to interview
- Facilitates processes and flow of required HR & course forms

# Library Opportunities Paid & Unpaid





# REQUESTORS



#### Out-of-State, Online Students (recent requests)

#### Challenges

- Current openings or available work may not match requests, especially for trendy topics
- HR requirements (e.g., paperwork, background checks)
- Students from different universities have different requirements
- Students requesting online experiences present special challenges
- Connecting a request with the right librarian in a large library system

#### Mentoring: Experiential Students

- All experiential students, paid and unpaid, receive mentoring
- Mentoring often continues, even beyond graduation

## Mentoring: Others

Others (often with graduate degrees in other areas) contact coordinator for early career exploration; may develop a longer term mentoring relationship.

- Discuss areas of librarianship and future of libraries
- Share pertinent articles, salary information, other items of interest
- Provide info: *So You Want to Be a Librarian* guide (far right)
- Link with other librarians and libraries for further information and discussion
- Link with UNC School of Library and Information Science
- Provide information on other library and information science programs in the area and online
- Discuss related fields (e.g., data science or health informatics)
- Discuss application strategies
- Promote advantages of experiential opportunities

#### Special Situations

**Volunteers:** Some (e.g., those contemplating a career change, recent graduates) may not qualify for traditional internships yet may need experience, mentoring, references.

- HR requirements stricter (e.g., can't do work an employee would do)
- Schedules and time commitment may be more unstable

#### Students or volunteers with disabilities

- May benefit from consultation with disability office, Vocational Rehabilitation, others
- May benefit from shorter, trial period
- Must be clear about expectations, requirements, necessary skills and abilities

#### So You Want to Be a Librarian Guide

Contacted by high school student interested in libraries

- Student had limited library experience; wanted to know about academic libraries
- Organized "career day experience" with 6 librarians in 4 UNC libraries over 3 days

After searching for good online resources, created a career guide

- Good resources available, but spread out across internet
- Feedback good resource for teens, college students and beyond
- Easy to find and to refer others to specific resources

### Teens interested in exploring careers

https://guides.lib.unc.edu/wanna-be-librarian

My Library Account



This fun, colorful guide is aimed at high school students and undergraduates. But everyone can use this guide to learn more about the library profession and why libraries are awesome

Guide to Job Shadowing for High School Students

Suggested Questions to Ask During Job Shadowing

All about Librarians Education Diversity & Inclusion Librarian Specialties Information Science Learn More

Job Shadowing Magazines Great American Read ALA Banned and Challenged

Libraries and Technology Social Media & Libraries Libraries are Cool

Just for Fun



school. You can also arrange your own job shadowing opportunity with the resources below.









Ask Us →

American Libraries

Job Shadowing

Magazine from the American Library Association (ALA). Includes news from ALA and articles on a variety of library topics that appeal to a broad audience of librarians.

Job shadowing, or observing someone doing their job, can be a good way to learn more about a profession and find

out if it's a good fit for you. Talk with your guidance counselor or career office to find out about opportunities at your

Public Libraries Online

Website and magazine from the Public Library Association (PLA). Includes news from PLA and articles on a variety of



