

# Destination Librarian: Helping Others on the Road to Librarianship

Barbara Rothen 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

Research Assistants  
students; paid; up to 4 semesters

Interns/fieldwork  
students; unpaid; course credit

Volunteers  
paid; length varies  
HR process complex

### REQUESTORS

Current Students

Prospective Students

Recent Graduates  
(career experience)

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

## Teens interested in exploring careers

## 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

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

Find

Research & Teaching

Using The Library

About

Support HSL

My Library Account

Ask Us

### So You Want to Be A Librarian?

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.

All about Librarians

Education

Diversity & Inclusion

Librarian Specialties

Information Science

Learn More

Job Shadowing

Magazines

Great American Read

ALA Banned and Challenged Books

Libraries and Technology

Social Media & Libraries

Libraries are Cool

Just for Fun

#### Job Shadowing

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

- Guide to Job Shadowing for High School Students
- Suggested Questions to Ask During Job Shadowing

- **American Libraries**  
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.
- **Public Libraries Online**  
Website and magazine from the Public Library Association (PLA). Includes news from PLA and articles on a variety of

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Health Sciences Library

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