

# The Chicken and the Egg

When you need professional experience to get the job, but you need the job to gain professional experience.



*“An internship provides a professionally guided experience when compared to the other experiential learning activities for the student. Students immerse themselves in daily routines of an information organization where they can experience the professional world, observe a variety of role models, and put theory and academic rigor into practice.”*  
(Bird, 2015)

## Projects and Observations

### Projects

- LibGuide research & development
  - Phonetics
  - Cultural Competence
- Mi-ALA poster
- Collection development
- Instructional documents
  - MeSH term searching in PubMed
  - CINAHL headings searching

### Observations

- Information Literacy Sessions
- Reference work
- Internal and professional meetings

### Professional Development

- Special Library Association Job Market webinar
- Western Michigan Health Science Libraries Association meeting
- Grey Literature webinar
- Creating accessible documents webinar

## Lessons Learned

### Liaison Responsibilities

- Utilization of asynchronous platforms are often essential to collaborate with faculty
- Establish the end goal of the project
- Collection development- how usage, authority, and availability factor in

### Scholarly Work

- Data analysis and clean up

### Technology

- LibGuides (Springshare)
- Creating accessible documents

### Information Literacy Instruction

- Keep examples and topics relevant
- Provide contact information for follow-up
- Be approachable and accessible
- Your excitement directly impacts student engagement
- Interactive activities heighten interest
- Focus on building skills
- Do not overload students with information

### Reference

- How to complete a thorough reference interview
- Run through the basics
- Sometimes follow-up and/or multiple meetings are necessary
- Peer-to-peer consultations successfully support student research
- Know when to teach and when to offer expert support

### Creating Student Guides

- Start broad, narrow and focus
- Identify only quality resources to include
- Be clear and concise

## Benefits (and Challenges)

### Benefits for the intern

- Gain valuable insight, that is unattainable through coursework
- Gain hands on experience
- Develop hireable and applicable skills
- Obtain academic credit
- Opportunities to meet other professionals
  - Broaden professional network
  - Learn about others' professional journeys

### Benefits for the hosting institution

- Complete projects that would otherwise not get done
- For tenure-track librarians, the internship offers an opportunity for professional service
- Able to mentor and prepare future leaders
- Affords the opportunity to view work from a new and different perspective

### Challenges

- Scheduling time, while working full time
- Narrowing the scope of the experiences

## The Intern



College of  
Communication &  
Information Sciences



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## The Host



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### References

Bird, N., Oguz, F., & Chu, C. (2015). Internship in LIS education: An international perspective on experiential learning. *IFLA Journal*, 41(4), 298-307. doi:10.1177/0340035215596352

[Chicken, eggs, hen, bird, farm, livestock]. (2016, October 15). Retrieved April, 2017, from <https://pixabay.com/en/animal-barn-bird-chicken-eggs-1867521/>