Internships, Practicums and Field Experiences

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Definitions
Internship

• A limited period of supervised training in a library or other information agency intended to facilitate the application of theory to practice following the completion of formal course work toward the master’s degree in library and information science. An intern may be paid and/or receive graduate credits based on the number of hours worked.

  – Online Dictionary for Library and Information Science (Reitz, Libraries Unlimited)
Practicum

• A limited period of hands-on work in a library or other information service agency structured to provide an opportunity for a novice to relate theory to practical experience, usually in the student’s field of specialization. Compare with internship.

— Online Dictionary for Library and Information Science (Reitz, Libraries Unlimited)
Field Experience

• (Fieldwork). The gathering of information or data about a subject through observation, interviewing and other methods of direct investigation, usually conducted in a location closely associated with the topic, as opposed to researching the subject in books and other publications, conducting experiments in a laboratory setting, administering mail surveys, etc.

  – Online Dictionary for library and Information Science (Reitz, Libraries Unlimited
While You’re Still in School

- University Credit
- Faculty Assistance in Placement
- Faculty Supervision and Mentoring
- On-Site Mentoring and Hands-On Learning
Federal Libraries

• Federal Library and Information Center Committee (FLICC)
  – Human Resources Working Group
    http://www.loc.gov/flicc/wghr.html
  – Education and Training
    http://www.loc.gov/flicc/edutraining.html
  – Wiki/Internships
    http://fewg.wikispaces.com
Voice of America (VOA) Information Services Division Intern
Video Library Assistant/Intern:

**Fields:** Library science, collection development, special libraries, radio and television environment

**Duties:** May include all or some of the following activities: shot-level cataloging of video content; respond to producer requests for video content; search internal database and indexes; assist with circulation procedures; assist with processing stock footage materials; assist with videotape check-in and check-out; re-shelve returned tapes; tape shifting; apply barcodes and labels to tapes; assist research staff to pull and cue video content; assist Tape Distribution crew with runs and related duties; assist with video retirement process including updating collection data and shelf-reading; assisting with re-labeling, sorting, and pairing script and other associated information with videotapes and boxing for shipment.

**Interests:** Media collection management; Current news and international affairs; special libraries

**Requirements:** graduate or undergraduate study in Library Science or television broadcasting, detail oriented; good communication skills.

**Other Information:** Internship is unpaid. Willing to complete paperwork, etc so student can receive academic credit. For general information visit:

[www.voanews.com](http://www.voanews.com)
Library of Congress

http://www.loc.gov/index.html