Revealing the Secret: MassBLAST Internships for Teens Uncover the Mystery of What Librarians Do!

Doris Ann Sweet
Simmons College
Boston, MA

MassBLAST is an IMLS funded project begun in Massachusetts that reaches out to diverse populations of high school students. Paid 40-hour internships in public and academic libraries introduce teens to librarianship as a possible career choice. Sample schedules, guidance for activities, and supporting resources at www.simmons.edu/massblast help any library that wishes to offer internships to local teens. Assessment shows positive changes in intern perceptions of libraries and librarians.
Revealing the Secret: MassBLAST Internships for Teens Uncover the Mystery of What Librarians Really Do!

Doris Ann Sweet
Simmons College
KLA/KSMA/SELA/ARL
October 2, 2008
Question:

How can we recruit a diverse, new generation to the library profession?
MassBLAST

Building

Library

Awareness and

Staff for

Tomorrow
What Librarians Really Do

- Technology
- Formal and Informal Education
- Focus on Communities’ Needs
- Managers
- Literacy and Information Literacy
- Privacy and Censorship
Diversity Internship Program
MassBLAST Funders

H. W. Wilson Foundation

Institute of Museum and Library Services
www.simmons.edu/massblast

Blastoff to the Library with Teen Internships

Librarians: Engage students from your community through library internships. Our proven curriculum provides an accessible road map for you.

Teens: Join your friends to learn about libraries, develop research skills, and explore strategies for success in college and your future careers.
Barcode Technique...
Guest Speaker
Information Literacy
First Interns
Intern Says…

“Before this internship I thought as many think: Librarians have uncomplicated jobs. They help people find books. This internship has helped me to understand the knowledge necessary to be a librarian and the resources needed to open and run a library.”
IMLS Grant 2005

MassBLAST Sponsors:

Simmons Library
Simmons Graduate School of Library and Information Science
UMass Boston Library
Participating Libraries

Simmons College Library
UMass Boston Library
Athol Public Library
Boston Public Library
Cambridge Public Library
Holyoke Community College Library
Springfield City Library
Springfield College Library
West Springfield Public Library
Worcester Public Library
“Before this internship I thought as many think: librarians have uncomplicated jobs.” Intern

Librarians: Engage students from your community through library internships - use our proven curriculum.

Learn how to design and run an internship for your library. Choose from a robust bank of curriculum and administrative resources to fit the needs of your library.
Reference Interview
Interlibrary Loan
Researching Colleges
What Goes Into a Resume?
Setting Up Camera
From Selection to Shelf
# Intern’s Book

**Author**  
Asante, Molefi K., 1942-

**Title**  
Erasing racism : the survival of the American nation

**Publisher**  

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**Description**  

**Notes**  
In grateful recognition of Christina Joseph’s dedicated participation in MassBlast, the Library Diversity Internship Program 2008.

Includes bibliographical references (p. 277-294) and index.

**Subjects**  
United States -- Race relations.  
Racism -- United States.  
African Americans -- Civil rights.  
African Americans -- Social conditions -- 1975-  
African Americans -- Reparations.  
Simmons College, Libraries. -- Gifts.  
Joseph
Editing with iMovie
Summer Program

Release Your Inhibitions: BLAST off to the Library!!

High school library internship www.myspace.com/massbl...
Former Interns
Workshop for TLA’s
Stipends

• Memorial fund in honor of library supporter
• Provost’s diversity funding
• Community trust fund that support internships for young people
• Grant from local foundation
Public Librarians say…

“Staff working together on this project has benefited morale and our team approach to our tasks.”

“Energizing; I learned about pressures and issues in local youth's lives.”
Academic Librarian says…

“We actually got two great kids out of it. The institution benefited more than anything… we have students coming in who hadn’t considered us before.”
2008 Survey of Former Interns

• Fifty percent “somewhat” interested in librarianship
• Thirty percent “very” or “extremely” interested in librarianship
Interns Say…

“I believe this is a great internship and helps to develop many skills that would go untaught in schools.”

“I learned that librarianship can vary in different fields. There were many fields in librarianship that most people didn't know about.”
Interns Say…

“I love it and I would love to be able to work here someday real soon. The internship helped me feel comfortable going to the library.”

“Yes, I see the idea of librarianship as a career differently. It’s actually a possibility for me because I do love books and information. I never realized how important librarians really are.”
www.simmons.edu/massblast

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