



Opening Doors:

Student Internship Stories





Internships at the SJSU iSchool

Imagine interning at a high-tech Silicon Valley company—without ever actually going to Silicon Valley!

Students enrolled in the Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS), Master of Archives and Records Administration (MARA) or Post-Master's Certificate programs have the opportunity to participate in an innovative internship program for course credit. Our school maintains a database of more than 200 internship opportunities each semester, including virtual and on-site internships.

Although internships are optional, we highly encourage all of our students to complete at least one internship. Students benefit greatly from the experience, reporting that it builds new skills, boosts their resume, and opens doors to additional job opportunities.

Read about their experiences and the wide range of opportunities and careers

you can explore through internships at the SJSU iSchool.



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Exploring the World's Archives



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Take advantage of the one-credit classes and internships while you are a student. **There are a lot of interesting topics and opportunities** that you might not know about otherwise.

– Kayla Kipps, '18 MLIS
Charleston, South Carolina

Kayla Kipps began her journey into the world of librarianship as an undergrad at Virginia Tech when she started working in the Art & Architecture Library and then moved to the Main Campus Library. After graduation, she decided to expand on her professional experience and move forward with her MLIS degree. She chose the SJSU iSchool because of its flexibility.

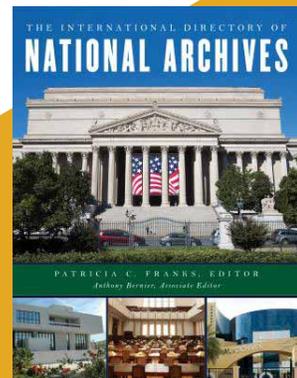
“ The SJSU iSchool seemed like a great option because I could do it part time,” says Kipps. “It was really flexible to do while still working. There is not a library school in Virginia, so I really needed a program that was **100 percent online**, or I would have had to move. ”

She soon found other benefits to the virtual classroom experience. She took advantage of the opportunity to also earn an Advanced Certificate in Strategic Management of Digital Assets and Services, building skills she now uses in her career as a collections assessment specialist. She also built long-lasting friendships with people she has never met face-to-face.



Internship Experience

To round out her program experience, Kipps did a virtual internship working on the **International Directory of National Archives** book project. Under the editorial guidance of professors Patricia Franks and Anthony Bernier, Kipps and other student researchers worked together to create the first-ever comprehensive source of information about the national archives from 198 different countries spanning the globe.





Cataloging the California Experience



This is what I wanted to do.

– Amanda Mellinger, '16 MLIS
New York, New York

Amanda Mellinger earned her BA in History from Temple University and enrolled in the MLIS program shortly after moving to Silicon Valley. As a lover of history, she was especially interested in archives, historical records and special collections.

Mellinger still remembers the advice given by alumna Colleen Cook in a career colloquium. Cook's advice: **"Make use of your time. Get hands-on experience,"** became Mellinger's guiding principle. While taking online courses, she also volunteered as a curator at History San José and took a part-time position at the California Room of the San José Public Library.

She then took on a paid position as project archivist at San José State University, working with a team of archivists from 11 California State University campuses to digitize the collection of Japanese-Californians' World War II experiences through the CSU Japanese American Digitization Project.



Internship Experience

Those experiences led to a year-long internship at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University. There, she went through new collections, organized unprocessed documents, and created "finding aids" so researchers can easily locate materials. **She excelled at the job and was asked to stay on as a permanent part-time employee.** Thanks to the SJSU iSchool (and a lot of hard work!), she is realizing her dream of making a living from her passion for history.





Internships in All Shapes and Sizes



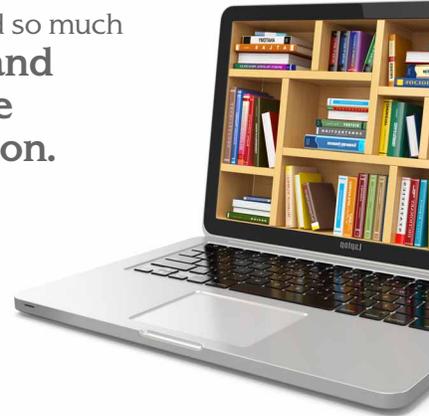
After earning her B.A. in English, her teaching credential and two Master's degrees in Education, **Joy Kim** taught high school English for eight years before deciding it was time for a career change. She entered the MLIS program at the SJSU iSchool—and decided to get the most out of the program by taking part in multiple internship opportunities.

“I had opportunities to intern at so many places,” says Kim. **“The greatest takeaway is that librarianship comes in all shapes and sizes!** I did not know how diverse librarian contexts could be and that there really is a place for every kind of librarian.”



Every internship was so unique and different. I have enjoyed all of them immensely and have learned so much about the **uniqueness and expansiveness of the information profession.**

– **Joy Kim, '18 MLIS**
Bay Area, California



Internship Experience

Kim's diverse range of internships included both virtual and on-site experiences:

- Virtual Reference Librarian at Claremont School of Theology
- Metadata Intern at Shutterfly
- GIS Metadata Intern at Stanford University Branner Earth Sciences Library and Map Collections
- Faculty Diversity Intern at Peralta Community College District
- Circulation Specialist at Stanford University Green Library
- Community Development Intern at Anchorage Public Library

Kim has nothing but good things to say about the MLIS program. **“The program is designed for students who take initiative and are willing to try new things,”** she says.





Fulfilling a Lifelong Dream



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Librarianship is the means by which I decided I was **going to see the world and make a difference.**

– Heather Kiger, '16 MLIS
Washington, DC

Heather Kiger was taking courses in the special librarianship career pathway of the MLIS program when she saw a listing for a library intern at **Yosemite National Park**. “I always wanted to get into the national parks, to get into nature somehow,” Kiger says. Within a few weeks, she found herself moving across the state to start her dream internship.

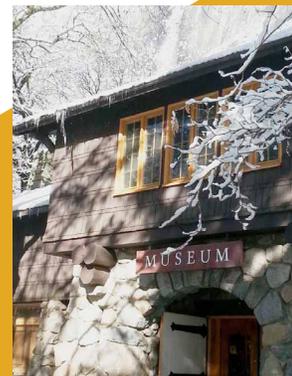
Kiger's internship was funded by a grant to modernize the Yosemite Library, which is housed in a small room on the second floor of the park's museum. With no public Internet access, only a few electrical outlets, a fireplace and a single table, **“it's like stepping back in time,”** Kiger says.



Internship Experience

Working alongside the head librarian and a team of volunteers, she worked on converting the library's collection of more than 10,000 books, 20,000 photographs and other materials from Dewey Decimal to Library of Congress classification.

Fortuitously, Kiger had previously participated in a virtual internship in cataloging, which helped her immeasurably. And since it was such a small team, she was able to get involved in a wide variety of tasks. Every day, she learned more about Yosemite's history, geology and wildlife—all while gaining invaluable library experience.



As she looks forward to her next great adventure, Kiger reflects: “In terms of getting a broader picture of how to operate all aspects of the library, **this was a wonderful opportunity.** And it was so much fun!”





Beyond the Library: Gaining Experience in Archives and Records



Samuel Henley completed three internships while earning his MARA degree. He spent one summer working in the archive of the Anchorage Museum in Alaska where he surveyed, sorted and rehoused more than 12,000 photographic slides, negatives and prints from the Alaska Railroad Corporation.

The next spring, he worked at the American Film Institute in Hollywood, working with oral histories, manuscripts, movie scripts and posters, financial records, and photographs from the Golden Age of Hollywood. His third internship was a little closer to home, organizing records pertaining to the founding of the University of California Merced campus.

Reflecting back on his internships, Henley says, “Experience is key. These three internships gave me a year’s worth of experience for my resume. I think **the experience is totally valuable.**”

– **Samuel Henley, '19 MARA**
Merced, California



I recommend that students **take advantage of as many internship and professional opportunities as possible**—whether they are down the street or across the country.

– **Anna Maloney, '17 MARA**
Cincinnati, Ohio

Anna Maloney says completing internships during her years in the MARA program have contributed significant insights and important nuts-and-bolts experiences. Spanning the field from records management and archiving to overseeing special collections, Maloney’s done it all.

She inventoried part of the 150-year accumulation of documents and artifacts at Reynolds and Reynolds – including making recommendations about what to retain and destroy and surveying materials housed in a closet that no one had reviewed in more than a decade.

Maloney also served as a records management intern with the National Park Service and spent two months living and working at the Midwest Regional Office in Omaha, Nebraska. In another internship, she helped organize, sort and manage historic materials written in French—a challenge that put her seven years of French language studies to the test!

“In my internships, often I was left alone to figure things out,” Maloney says. “My supervisors had little-to-no knowledge of archives and records management. **The most important thing people can do is get as much experience as possible.**”





What Doors Will You Open?

At the SJSU iSchool, we take pride in offering a diverse range of virtual and on-site internship opportunities for our MLIS, MARA and Post-Master's Certificate students. **Our expert faculty members collaborate with internship supervisors across the country to provide rich, in-depth learning experiences.**

Internships are a unique way to gain valuable real-world experience, build your professional network, and explore career options—all while earning course credit. We strongly encourage all of our students to take advantage of these opportunities.

To learn more about the SJSU iSchool and explore our internship program, visit ischool.sjsu.edu/internships.



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