Science Librarian Internship as a Way to Get Started in E-Science

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internship; intern; library school student; e-Science; Boston College Libraries; getting started with e-Science; E-science initiatives, approaches to e-Science, e-Science needs assessment; education

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**Science Internship as a Way to Get Started in E-Science**

**Boston College Libraries**

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**Katie Stiffler and Jake Winkley, with Becky Hoffman, Science Literacy Interns Tullamore/Fishery and Marine Sciences, Boston College Libraries**

**Objective:**

To demonstrate that a science internship program can be used to support an emerging science library user research

**Methods:**

The Science Literacy Interns program at Boston College Libraries (Boston), in collaboration with the Libraries' Science Information Department, designed and implemented a science internship program for students. The program was designed to provide opportunities for students to gain practical experience in the field of science information and to foster a greater understanding of the science community. The program included a variety of activities, such as library research, outreach, and community engagement. The interns were able to apply their knowledge and skills in a real-world setting, gaining valuable experience and insights into the science community.

**Results:**

The program demonstrated significant benefits for the students and the Libraries. The students gained valuable skills, and the Libraries benefited from the fresh perspectives and innovative ideas brought by the interns. The program was well-received by the students and has been continued in subsequent years.

**Conclusions:**

The Science Literacy Interns program is a successful model for science education and research. The program provides opportunities for students to gain practical experience and to contribute to the science community. It is recommended that similar programs be implemented in other libraries and institutions to support the needs of the science community.

**Goals of the Science Librarian Internship, Boston College Libraries**

- Gain added support for collection development and reference activities.
- Enhance awareness and appreciation of the role of librarians in the academic community.
- Develop a better understanding of the scientific community and the role of libraries in supporting it.
- Foster a sense of community and collaboration among students and faculty.

**Position Posting - 2010**

Science Librarian Internship, O’Malley Library, part time (to hour/week)

The position is available for two science librarians to work with students in our science collections. The librarians will work with students on research projects and other science-related activities. The librarians will also provide reference services and conduct outreach activities.

**Science Literacy Internship**

Science Literacy Interns conduct research on science literacies, science information needs, and science and technology information management. The interns work with faculty on various projects and contribute to the development of the library’s science literacy initiatives.

**What Did the Science Literacy Internship achieve?**

- The Science Literacy Interns program has been successful in supporting students in their research and contributing to the development of the library’s science literacy initiatives.
- The program has been well-received by the students and has been continued in subsequent years.

**Structure and Tasks of Internships (2008 and 2010)**

Interns worked closely with each member of the group through the internship, with each group member responsible for a specific aspect of the project. This provided a unique opportunity for each intern to develop their skills and contribute to the overall project.

**Internship Programs Evolution**

- Spring 2008 Internship
- Summer 2008 Internship
- Winter 2009 Internship

- Spring 2009 Internship
- Summer 2009 Internship

- Spring 2010 Internship
- Summer 2010 Internship

**What’s Happened Since (Fall 2010)**

- Fall 2010
- Winter 2010

**Interlibrary Loan (L Corona)**

- Fall 2010
- Winter 2010

**Boston College Libraries E-Science Vision Statement Draft**

- Spring 2008

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