

ARLIS/NA + VRA 3rd Joint Conference 2016, Seattle – Conference Session

Duty Now for the Future: Connecting Libraries, Library Schools, and New Librarians through Internships

Internships are a vital part of both library school and libraries. Students need the practical education to transition into a professional position upon graduation, and many libraries depend upon these interns to assist with core library functions. In spite of the increasingly prominent role of internships in libraries, very little critical attention is paid to what is now a deeply ingrained aspect of our profession. What should MLS students demand from internships? How should libraries craft meaningful and legal internships that do not exploit the labor of these MLS students? How can library schools support this? Might an internship/apprenticeship model prove more beneficial to MLS students than the abstract lessons taught in the classroom? These sorts of questions need to be seriously addressed by library professionals, and this session will interrogate the role of internships in libraries today. John Lindaman will discuss Watson Library's innovative new intern fellowship that provides students with a broad range of practical experiences in an art museum library. Sumitra Duncan and Kim Loconto will examine the work they've done with IMLS interns at NYARC, a consortium of NYC art libraries. Walter Schlect will discuss both his extensive internship experience as well as his time as Pratt's SILSSA President, where he helped connect MLS students with relevant internship programs. Helene Williams will discuss her work with students on fieldwork/internships at the University of Washington's iSchool.

Moderator

William Blueher, Metadata & Collections Librarian, Metropolitan Museum of Art

Speakers

Sumitra Duncan, Web Archiving Coordinator, New York Art Resources Consortium

John Lindaman, Technical Services Librarian, Metropolitan Museum of Art

Kim Loconto, IMLS M-Lead II Project Coordinator, Brooklyn Museum Libraries and Archives

Walter Schlect, SILSSA President, Pratt Institute

Helene Williams, Senior Lecturer, University of Washington