S(He) Said, She Said:
The Benefits of Mentorship From a Mentor and Mentee Perspective

Mentor Perspective

Finding the “Right” Person

Meet Her
Nothing provides more information than a face-to-face conversation. Look for someone that you think you can get along with and will fit the organizational culture.

Align Needs
Make sure your institution can offer projects and opportunities that match up with the intern’s goals and interests.

During the Internship

Treat Her Like a Professional
An intern is not another staff member. Provide opportunities that will prepare her for professional work.

Keep An Eye Out...
...for opportunities where she can collaborate on projects with other librarians outside of your primary responsibilities.

Expose Her
Introduce her to other professionals. Co-present at conferences. Take her along to committee meetings.

After the Internship

Be Available
Make sure you are available to answer questions and provide advice and guidance.

Be a Headhunter
Forward scholarship and job opportunities as you hear about them.

Collaborations

Outreach Projects

Created a social marketing campaign that highlights library services and resources that save the environment and money.

Instruction Projects

Developed a wiki to support Pharmacy course research and assignments.

Promoted library services during orientation events.

Mentee Perspective

The best learning experiences I have had during library school have been a result of my first internship. When traditional avenues for finding an internship don’t work, you can try what I did.

Getting Started

Take Control
Contact every human resources department to inquire about internship opportunities.

Keep an Open Mind
Don’t limit yourself to a particular type of library or subject area.

Know Thyself
Be clear about the experiences you want to have (e.g., types of projects, skills you would like to improve, etc.).

During the Internship

Share Your Ideas
Most librarians are open to hearing your perspective and are interested in how you would approach a project.

Take Advantage...
...of the resources and people around you. Look for opportunities to learn new skills and network.

After the Internship

Continue Collaborations
Look for opportunities to share your projects and experiences at conferences.

Keep in Touch
Your mentor can help you identify new opportunities and develop ideas. She can also guide you in your future career search.