The Interns said ...

- I loved it. I had a lot of fun and I learned a lot. –K. Jones

- In my opinion, it was definitely worth the time. It opens your eyes to the many different functions of the library while also giving you the campus experience. –G. Torres

- I will tell someone how the program will help you. –C. Tholley

- I would describe it as hard but fun and also educational and helpful in many ways. –K. Littles

- It made you think more by placing you in parts of the library that interested you. –K. Jones

- My internship helped me narrow my college selections by learning how to pursue career goals as a psychologist. –G. Torres

- Excellent and it’s not what [other students] would think. –K. Harris

- I love it and I don’t want it to end so soon. –R. Johnson

- A good experience. Made me think about the different careers out there. –R. Lassiter

- It was a great chance to learn something new. –G. Pollard

- I learned that I am capable of working. Also I am capable of putting my mind to something and following through. It made me realize that I need to get myself together now and fast. –K. Littles

- I would describe it as a great experience. It’s something that would stay with me through my lifetime. –K. Brown

- Other descriptors: Fun, Helpful, Inspiring, Great opportunity, Great learning experience. –Compilations from 2006 Interns

More from the Interns about the Penn Libraries environment ...

- It’s more than just putting books on the shelves. –K. Jones

- I didn’t know books and slides [from the Fine Arts Slide Library] had to go through so much. I always thought you go to the library and books are just on the shelves. –G. Torres

- I didn’t know all these different types of things happen in the library. Public libraries [are] so boring and quiet. –S. Jordan
• It’s definitely different from the public library or the school library. It’s more professional. —B. Wongus

• Usually when people think about libraries they think it’s just a whole bunch of books, people walking around, on the computer and stuff like that [with] librarians that’s going to be, “Oh be quiet. You’re in the library. You can’t eat and drink” but when I got here, it was so different. It’s not like a lot of old people. It’s a lot of young people walking around with their laptops and ipods. —T. Combs

• It’s very busy here. I didn’t think it was going to be this busy. I thought I was just going to help people find books and stuff. —K. Littles

• Where I grew up there was a lot of negative energy. Everybody I met [here] was fun to hang around with and I had a fun summer this year. —S. Jordan

• I never knew I would be this happy to work in a library! They’re trying to get us ready and it’s good to know that people actually do care about getting you into college. —T. Combs

Mentors’ comments

• The experience is both fulfilling and fun. They leave knowing librarianship is a viable choice especially when they see that they have the opportunity to work during the school year and really get to see the library during the semesters. —T. Laws

• I’m not sure we talked anyone into becoming a librarian, but I think we helped suggest that a future in higher education could be exciting and is very attainable. —F. Campbell

• I would tell other employees that this was a worthwhile experience. I’m not sure my intern was motivated to consider librarianship, but I think she learned a lot about libraries and librarians. —B. Cavanaugh

• Overall, it is a very worthwhile experience. You’ll look back and be glad you took the opportunity to participate. —G. McKenzie

• I would describe the experience as rich and rewarding. You see how much the intern has grown and mature[d] since that first week in the program. You see them become more confident and self-assured. I think one or two of the interns might consider librarianship as a career. The others will leave the program definitely appreciating what librarians do. —C. Rodriguez

• If we’re not attracting students to the profession what we are doing is, hopefully, embedding in the interns minds a positive image of librarians and the profession so that they become by default life long friends of the profession. —D. McKnight

• I think it is a great program. —J. Parsio
• I don’t think librarianship became a goal, but I think higher education did. –H. Glaser

• I would describe the program as challenging, enjoyable, and very labor intensive. –L. Rosenstein

• I don’t know if any of these students will go on to be librarians, but it’s a great way of exposing kids from underrepresented groups to the career and I’m so glad we do it. –L. Allen

• It was enlightening and wonderful. Although none of the interns expressed current interest in librarianship, we did accomplish the goal of teaching them about the field. And it just may end up moving from the fringes of their consciousness, to front and center one day. –P. Heller and B. Jenkins

• It was a positive experience and if given the opportunity, many more should consider participating. –R. Nelson

• I can’t remember an experience in my 27 years as a librarian that has been as rewarding as this one: the goal is so important, and the opportunity to participate in the program was such a privilege and its implementation such a challenge (but a manageable one). The kids were just terrific, and I really do think we made an impact (a positive one). I also very much valued the experience of planning & organizing with GOLD [Group on Library Diversity] colleagues. Did we accomplish the goal of making librarianship a viable career choice for these kids? I think the answer has to be yes. That doesn’t mean it will be their choice, but I think it would now be an option in a way it certainly wouldn’t have been before. They will also be much more positive and more informed library users (and therefore better informed students and citizens). And they will tell their friends and relatives that libraries are kind of interesting places, and librarians aren’t total losers, and who knows what the ripple effect of that will be … –S. Lehmann