

# S(He) Said, She Said:

## The Benefits of Mentorship From a Mentor and Mentee Perspective

Talitha Matlin, MLIS Candidate & Dominique Turnbow, MLIS  
University of California, San Diego Biomedical Library



### Mentor Perspective

*My favorite part of a being student was learning from my mentors. Now, I can give back to the profession by doing the same for others. I didn't let the lack of a formal internship program stop me from becoming a mentor.*

#### 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

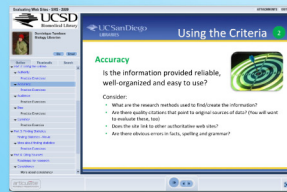


Created a social marketing campaign that highlights library services and resources that save the environment and money.

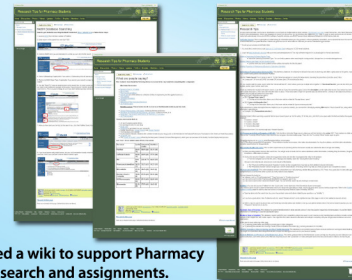


Promoted library services to students during orientation events.

#### Instruction Projects



Designed an online tutorial to teach undergraduate students about evaluating online health information.



Developed a wiki to support Pharmacy course research and assignments.

### 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 local library human resources departments 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.