**Social Work Students and Public Library Partnerships: Learner Guide**

<https://www.webjunction.org/events/webjunction/social-work-students-library-partnerships.html>

**Event Description:** Librarianship and social work have many shared values, including meeting the expanding and evolving needs of individuals and the community. Nearly 80 public libraries in the U.S. have collaborated with social work programs or schools of social work, to provide valuable learning opportunities for social work interns, and to connect community members with crucial services which exist beyond standard library offerings. Libraries or social work educators looking for ways to initiate collaborations with social work interns should join this webinar to understand the benefits, and a few challenges, to partnering with an institution or individual. Explore the types of intern assignments at the library that align with key social work competencies, from needs assessment to 1:1 patron referrals, and from staff training to outreach programs. And finally, discover how these internships can work for libraries of all types and sizes, including those in small and rural communities.

**Presented by:** **Sarah C. Johnson**, MLIS, LMSW, Assistant Professor, Social Sciences Librarian, Hunter College, City University of New York (CUNY), and creator of [Social Work Students & Public Libraries](https://swlibraryinterns.com/) website

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| **What are your goals for viewing this webinar?** |
| **Personal Goals** |   |
| **Team Goals** |   |

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| **Assessing Need for Social Work Support at the Library** |
| With an increase in community members experiencing challenges in their lives, library staff can benefit from understanding both the types of challenges and practical responses. The library may provide the individual with referrals to other community agencies to get help, but a more deliberate community assessment could help the library articulate the need for additional support. Discuss or consider the current or emerging scenarios that would benefit from a library/social work intern partnership. * financial
* mental health
* housing
* substance abuse
* medical or health-related
* employment related
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| **Investigating Partnership Potential** |
| If you live near a university or college with a social work program, or if there are distance learning programs that may have students from your area, identify potential contacts to investigate a possible partnership. Are there social services organizations in your community you could contact for referrals?  |
| **Staff Training** |
| What actions could you take to ascertain what staff need in terms of professional training or workshops? Consider the ways a social work intern might assist with training library staff: * Understanding de-escalation tactics
* Revamping library behavioral policies
* Teaching library staff about the concepts of trauma-informed care and/or self-care for both themselves and their patrons
* Other
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| **Outreach and Programming** |
| Sarah shared the various levels of outreach and programming opportunities that could be initiated. Select a handful of these to explore for your library, perhaps in collaboration with other community providers.* Grant proposals
* Write policy briefs
* Program evaluation
* Community partnerships
* Coffee and Conversations
* Tabling
* Referrals
* Tech assistance
* Virtual social work service
* Social work drop-in session
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| **Considerations and Supervision** |
| * Determine which accredited social work program is closest to me at [www.cswe.org](http://www.cswe.org).
* For social work programs, consider which libraries nearest to you may benefit from hosting a social work student, and identify the appropriate contact to begin discussions.
* Does my library already have a relationship with a social services agency, which may be able to serve as bridge to a future social work student? Does that agency have professional social workers that could provide weekly supervision to the student in question?
* Does the local social work program have a point person (i.e., a field placement advisor or director) who could supervise one or more students at multiple sites?
* Can my branch apply for a grant or funding to pay for outside supervision?

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|  **Action Plan: (include some simple next steps, along with who, when, etc.)** |
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