



SCOTTSDALE
**PUBLIC
LIBRARY**

Volunteers

The Library Interns for Specialized Services

The Scottsdale Public Library has several types of unpaid internships:

- The Library's Collection Management and Metadata Services (CMMS) department offers a digital collection internship. The intern learns to digitize and catalog historical materials to make them accessible and searchable through the Library's website. This internship is for students enrolled in the University of Arizona School of Information and those in the Arizona State University's School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies.
- The Library's Adult Services department offers a newly created Digital Media Lab internship. The intern was selected for her video editing skills. She will help patrons use the Civic Center's Digital Media Lab. All candidates were students of the Scottsdale Community College, especially those working for a degree in Film.
- A 135-hour internship is required to complete the University of Arizona's online program in library science. A graduate degree in library science is required to be a Librarian in most public library systems, including the Scottsdale Public Library. The following story is about **Chris McGinley's** path from Library Aide to Librarian, and his internship with the Library's Youth Services department.



Christopher McGinley

When the Library has a special need, and the Library's management approves, a new internship will be created. That job is then posted on the city's website. Library staff and volunteers do not enjoy any special courtesies – all applicants are treated equally. However, each position requires special skills and some require sponsorship. So, even though the City of Scottsdale is an equal opportunity employer, not everyone will meet the special requirements of some internships. All internships are unpaid and each intern's duties are negotiated between the Library, the sponsoring organization, and the intern to tailor the experience for the goals, interests and ability of the candidate. Interns are brought on-board in the same way as volunteers, and have the same privileges and defined roles and responsibilities as volunteers. Interns are also treated by Library staff in the same way as volunteers. The only difference is internships are usually limited to a specific number of hours, and end after those hours are completed.

Chris McGinley has not yet finished the University of Arizona's master's program for library science, but he has already been assured a Librarian job for the Mesa Public Library. He has been so successful because of his unique work background. After college, he joined Scottsdale's Department of Parks and Recreation, serving children and young adults. Soon after, he transitioned to the Library, starting in the Circulation department as a Library Aide. He then served as a Library Assistant at the Civic Center library for nearly seven years, working in Youth

Services. A Library Assistant does many of the same tasks as a fully-fledged librarian but has a limited career path. This is one reason for Chris to earn the academic credential to become a Librarian.

The University of Arizona program in Master of Library Information Science (MLIS) offers concentrations in different types of libraries: academic, law, medical... Chris chose to focus on public libraries which included discussions about customer service and community needs — concerns that are not as relevant to non-public libraries. Another topic that is special to public libraries is to plan programs for users of all ages, such as Story Time for young children.

Chris and his Library Intern Supervisor, **Kelly Scott**, worked with his academic advisor to agree on tasks to be completed during the internship. Given Chris' extensive work experience, all agreed for Chris to once again work in Youth Services. He has created reading lists and helped set up programs. He also examined materials for possible damage and their continued usability. He catalogued the Youth Services' electronic devices, Chromebooks and iPads, so that they can be inventoried and tracked. In addition, because Chris already knows so much about the Civic Center Library, he was able to answer questions at the Help Desk. This job is usually only performed by Library Staff because of the knowledge required.

When asked how he decided to do his internship with the public library rather than seeks a paid internship, he replied "I really like the people here, everybody, the staff, volunteers and patrons." Even though he did not start out intending to make a career of the Library, his long continuity, especially with children and youth, makes him an unusually well-qualified 'new' Librarian.

A few points about the other internships at the Library:

- **Chris McGinley's** internship with the Youth Services department was intended to be a one-time internship, but this internship proved to be so beneficial to the department that Youth Services aims to offer this position again to UofA students.
- **Jennifer Hunt** has recently completed her internship with the CMMS department, digitizing historic photos.
- The CMMS department's spring internship for UofA and ASU students is currently open and the Library is accepting applications.
- The Library has recruited a student from the Scottsdale Community College for the Digital Media Lab's internship.

The best way to learn more about internships at the Library is to volunteer! You will meet the interns and their supervisors, and observe how internships work.

*Our goal is to build a friendly, vibrant, service-oriented library team. Please join us. Give feedback to RMcKirchy@scottsdaleaz.gov
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