

The Mary and Samuel Somit Preservation Internship 2024 The University of Chicago Library

The University of Chicago Library is accepting applications for the 2024 Mary and Samuel Somit Preservation Internship. This Internship, established in 2006, has been made possible through the generosity of Dr. Albert Somit (AB '41, PhD '47), University of Chicago alumnus and past president of Southern Illinois University. Dr. Somit has established the Internship to honor his parents' legacy, serve the needs of the Library's collection, and prepare individuals for important work to preserve library materials and other scholarly resources in all formats so they remain available long-term for research and teaching.

2 Summer Internships for 2024

The six-week paid Internship is intended to provide firsthand experience and a broader understanding of Library-wide programs for the conservation and digitization of collections in an academic setting. The Preservation Department consists of three units: Collections Care, Conservation, and Digitization. The Digitization Unit partners with the Digital Library Development Center, Metadata Services, and subject specialists to create digital collections. The intern will learn about the services, operations, issues, and challenges of these services and programs. Under the guidance of professional library staff, the intern will undertake a project, prepare a final report, have opportunities to meet and update project teams, and give a presentation about the project and its findings.

Hanna Papanek Digitization Project

For 2024, the Library is offering two Internships focusing on aspects of a project to digitize, preserve, and make accessible a rich collection of color slides from the Hanna Papanek Photograph Collection. Hanna Papanek (1927-2017) was a distinguished anthropologist and feminist noted for her groundbreaking work on women, labor, and family status production. She lived and traveled for extended periods of time in Pakistan in the 1950s, and Indonesia in the 1970s, conducting fieldwork that gave rise to her path-breaking work on the role of female seclusion (purdah) in enhancing family status. The collection consists of approximately 8,000 color slides documenting Papanek's fieldwork and travels in the region.

Project 1 – Metadata: The Library has digitized the slides in this collection and intends to make the images available online as a digital collection within its newly emergent Node infrastructure for such collections. The items in question have been inventoried and received preliminary description from the former owners but there is considerable metadata enhancement work needed to make them fully intellectually accessible to potential users. Under the guidance of University of Chicago's Metadata Analyst Librarian, Southern Asian Studies Librarian, and other members of the Library staff, the Somit Intern will evaluate the current metadata in light of Node's standards for metadata and develop a metadata application profile for this collection, will identify places in the extant metadata that require amelioration, help develop workflows for carrying out this amelioration, and, as time permits, begin the process of metadata upgrading. (See link about the Node project below)

<https://www.lib.uchicago.edu/about/news/neh-grant-to-transform-uchicagos-creation-and-delivery-of-digital-collections-and-research-data/>

Project 2 – Privacy Rights Review: Under the guidance of the Southern Asian Studies Librarian and in consultation with members of the Digital Collections Working Group, the Intern will do a thorough rights assessment for this photograph collection using existing reports and documentation, and by reviewing core value and privacy statements published by organizations such as the Society of American Archivists and the Smithsonian Institution. Work will include providing contextual information for the collection, and consulting with Library staff engaged in digital projects with similar content, and with other institutions hosting similar digital collections who have implemented policies and practices addressing ethical considerations. The Intern will make recommendations for a path forward including criteria for levels of access and work through the collection to apply these criteria. The intern will also draft an ethical and privacy rights statement for the collection and develop a rights assessment workflow that may serve as models for other digital collections.

Eligibility and Requirements

The Internship is open to recent graduates and currently enrolled students in a recognized library school of information, or related graduate program, or students with equivalent experience or training in metadata, digital collections, or archival collections. The applicant should possess the ability to work collaboratively and independently to accomplish project goals. A background or previous coursework in Anthropology or South or Southeast Asian studies is highly desirable but not required.

How to Apply

To apply for the Internships, individuals should electronically submit a letter of application, resume, list of completed relevant coursework or training, and contact information (name and email address) for two professional references. To be considered, individuals must currently be authorized to work permanently in the U.S. and be able to commit to six consecutive weeks of full-time work between approximately June 1st and August 31st. These are paid internships in the amount of a \$5,000 stipend. The internships are fully onsite at the Library.

The deadline for applications is Sunday, April 7th, 2024

Submit electronic applications to:
somitinternship@lib.uchicago.edu

For more information, please see our Somit Preservation Internship website (<https://www.lib.uchicago.edu/about/directory/departments/pres/somit/>) or contact:

Sherry Byrne, Director of Preservation, University of Chicago Library
sbyr@uchicago.edu

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