Virtual Practicum Opportunities in Digital Services at Texas Woman’s University

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Abstract

Prior to the pandemic, Library Science students at Texas Woman’s University (TWU) were required to complete a 120 hour in-person practicum prior to graduation. With libraries across the country forced to close to the public or severely limit their in-person interactions with patrons, practicum opportunities were in short-supply. In response to a call for help from the School of Library and Information Science, the Digital Services unit at TWU created curriculum and projects for virtual practicum students. In this poster presentation three Library Science students will describe their experience in the Digital Services virtual practicum, special digital projects completed, and how the virtual practicum has helped to prepare them for their career in librarianship.

Projects
Building on Experience

Self-paced Google Classroom
- Open Access
- Scholarly publishing
- Copyright
- Open Educational Resources
- Webinars and learning opportunities

Project INDEX (Increase Discoverability of Expertise)
- Faculty CV review
- Copyright and journal permissions policy research
- Faculty correspondence
- Institutional repository ingest and Dublin Core metadata creation

Networking
Benefits of Virtual Meet & Greets

Learning about different roles in the library
Seeking professional/career advice
Building a sense of community in a virtual environment

Flexibility
Many TWU SLIS Students Work Full-time In Addition To Their Graduate Work & Practicum Hours

The flexibility of the Digital Services Practicum allowed students to perform required practicum hours after work and on weekends. Allowed non-traditional students the ability to gain confidence and hands-on experience when the library was closed Reduce anxiety for students tasked with completing practicum hours during a pandemic