The University of Chicago Library is accepting applications for the 2016 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 and protect library materials and other scholarly works so that they are available for research and teaching.

Internship, Summer 2016

The six-week Internship is intended to provide firsthand experience and a broader understanding of the care and treatment of library and archives materials in a large library. The intern will work with the Preservation Librarian to learn about the operations, issues, and challenges of a comprehensive preservation program. Under the guidance of the Head of Conservation the intern will complete a condition survey of Special Collections material. The major outcome of the Internship will be the survey and the report. The Internship project will involve designing the survey tool, mapping collection stacks, conducting the survey by assessing the condition of materials, analyzing the data, and preparing a final report of the project and findings. The intern may also have the opportunity to provide a presentation to Library staff about the project.

Eligibility and Requirements

The Internship is open to recent graduates and currently enrolled students of a recognized library or conservation program; or students with equivalent experience and training in preservation or book conservation. Applicants must be familiar with preservation principles and statistical methods of surveying. Coursework in the history of books and paper and experience in bookbinding are required. The applicant should possess the ability to work collaboratively and independently to accomplish project goals. Familiarity with Windows, spreadsheet software, and databases is highly desirable.

The 2016 Internship provides a $4,000 stipend.

To apply for the Internship, individuals should electronically submit a letter of application, a resume, a list of preservation and conservation courses or completed training, and contact information (name and email address) for three professional references. To be considered, individuals must currently be authorized to work permanently in the US, and be able to commit to six consecutive weeks of full-time work between June 1st and August 30th.

The University of Chicago is an Affirmative Action / Equal Opportunity / Disabled / Veterans Employer.

The deadline for applications is March 1st, 2016.

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

For more information please see our Somit Preservation Internship website (http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/about/departments/preservation/somit/) or contact:

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