

1974: Launch Academic Library Management Intern Program

In 1974, CLR launched the Academic Library Management Intern Program, which awarded up to five internships annually to outstanding midcareer librarians, each of whom would work closely with the director of an academic library of acknowledged administrative excellence. During their year, the interns had a unique opportunity to observe the techniques used by top management for dealing with day-to-day problems and to share in finding solutions to those problems. The interns participated in special projects that are helpful in their host institution and also increased their management skills.

A review of interns' career paths in the early 1980s revealed that more than a quarter of the interns had become library directors, and the same number had become either assistant or associate directors. By 1992-1993, the program's last year, 55 librarians had completed the program.

Academic Library Management Intern Program

A fair amount of concern has surfaced among librarians and others interested in library problems about finding appropriate successors for the present directors of the country's prestigious academic and research libraries. Many of these people are approaching retirement; yet there appears not to exist within the ranks of the profession an adequate supply of potential replacements, individuals who combine the scholarly and administrative attributes needed to direct a great library. This year the Council's board of directors approved a program to select, on the basis of an open competition, up to five outstanding midcareer librarians of demonstrated administrative potential, each of whom would be assigned to work closely with the director of an academic library of acknowledged administrative excellence. Such a program, long available in business, government, and general academic administration, should contribute significantly to the pool of present and potential leadership so critically needed by our great academic and research libraries. After a rigorous screening process that included review by two separate groups and personal interviews for the ten top candidates, the following five librarians were selected:

Barbara Brown, head of reference and public services at Washington and Lee University, has been assigned to work with Page Ackerman at the University of California, Los Angeles.

⁴⁹ XV:17; XVI:45; XVII:48.

Ralph Edwards, assistant director of Western Michigan University's School of Librarianship, will spend the internship year at the University of Michigan under the supervision of Frederick Wagman.

Judy Fair, director of the Urban Institute Library in Washington, D. C., will be at Princeton University where William Dix is the university librarian.

Thomas J. Michalak, librarian for economics and political science at Indiana University, will serve his internship with Warren J. Haas, vice president and university librarian of Columbia University.

Barbara von Wahlde, associate director for technical processing at the University of West Florida, will receive her training at the University of Tennessee Library under the guidance of Richard Boss.