



New librarians who have grasped opportunities presented to them after their internships. From left to right: Annie Wright, David Faraker, Ellen Weaver, Jade Koekoe and Liz Luchetti.

HOW TO STAND OUT: AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY INTERNSHIP

An internship is a great way to kickstart your LIS career, as **JADE KOEKOE** and **LIZ LUCHETTI** report.



Jade Koekoe

Jade:

Librarianship is an extremely competitive field, where library students feel they constantly have to prove themselves to stand out and win a place in the profession.

I decided I would stand out by completing relevant internships while I studied. So, in 2015, I completed two internships: one in

the Humanities Department at Melbourne Museum and the other at the Australian Parliamentary Library.

My internship in the Parliamentary Library progressed over 20 working days. I decided to complete it in an intensive block of four consecutive weeks. For the first three weeks, I was involved in the daily operations of the library's collection management, databases and media services, and I was also at the central enquiry point where I helped with circulation and reference tasks. In the final week I chose my own project; I decided to do something new and help the Library's Innovation Manager with one of his projects. I cleaned data, investigated standardising the format of names and searched for suitable application

programming interfaces. Being given such a close-up view of the operations of this library was a privilege I won't soon forget.

There are many benefits for library students in undertaking an internship. Before you even graduate you can say you have industry experience, which increases your appeal to potential employers. Internships also give you a chance to explore the industry and discover what excites you. I always thought collection management would be my calling, but my Parliamentary Library internship opened my eyes to the inner workings of code and data management, which I find more exciting. Internships also give you the chance to make professional connections, which is really difficult to do when you are new to the industry.

Nothing beats workplace experience.



Liz Luchetti

Liz:

The Parliamentary Library internship is now in its third year. During this time I have welcomed nine interns into the Library Collections and Databases Branch. As well as being a great professional opportunity for the interns, it is also a fantastic opportunity for the experienced staff working at the Parliamentary Library.

We really enjoy interacting and getting to know new librarians and hearing about how much the library course has changed over the years.

Each intern is assigned a mentor who guides them during the four-week placement. The mentoring relationship is extremely important as it allows the sharing of information and ideas and provides guidance and valuable advice to the intern. Library staff also learn from the interns. When I was at university, e-resources were not around and digital preservation was not yet an issue, so I find it really valuable to observe this knowledge in our interns.

The intern program covers a wide array of library-related duties, including digitisation, subject indexing, collection development, collection management, and circulation and reference tasks. Whatever your professional interest, it can be explored at the Parliamentary Library.

The internship is open to students who have started studying for an ALIA accredited Librarian qualification at an Australian institution. It is open to both undergraduate and postgraduate students. Applicants must be Australian citizens or permanent residents. 

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