

Internship Opportunities

www.nal.usda.gov

The National Agricultural Library (NAL), one of four U.S. national libraries, houses the largest most accessible agricultural collection in the world and is the nexus for a national network of state land-grant and U.S. Department of Agriculture field libraries.

Projects are available throughout the library and vary from basic office assistance to highly technical positions. Examples of project tasks include:

- organizing and inventorying collections of photographs, nursery catalogs, manuscript papers, and memorabilia
- creating web pages
- processing large scale bibliographic data in a database environment

Upon request and subject to staff availability, your internship experience can be customized to fit your special interest area or specific career-oriented goal. For a detailed list of internship opportunities, go to: http://www.nal.usda.gov/about/LIBRARY_INTERNSHIP.pdf

Candidates should be detail oriented and self-motivated with excellent analytical, oral and written communication skills, and the ability to work with Microsoft Access software.

Internships are also available for academic credit or volunteer basis. Flexible schedules are available, Monday through Friday.

For inquiries or to apply please contact:

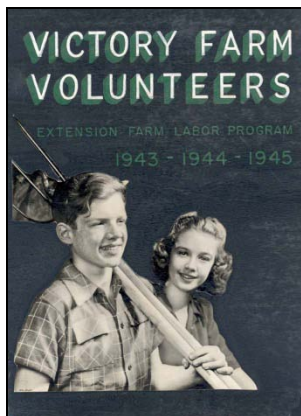
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RARE AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY

<http://www.nal.usda.gov/speccoll/> • SpecialCollections@ars.usda.gov
301-504-5876 • 301-504-7593 (fax)

Dig into Rare and Special Collections as a Volunteer



If you love digging into a project and creating order out of chaos then the National Agricultural Library (NAL) wants you as a volunteer. Located just three miles from the University of Maryland campus, NAL is one of four U.S. national libraries and has a collection of more than 3.5 million items including many rare and valuable special collections. This is your opportunity to explore the treasures of NAL's Rare and Special Collections up close.

Volunteers or interns are needed to organize and label collections, create databases, copy and scan materials, and write collection descriptions. NAL's knowledgeable and enthusiastic Rare and Special Collections staff will work with you to tailor internship or practicum opportunities to your skills and interests. Whatever your interests are we have a collection to match. Here are a few examples.

Henry G. Gilbert Nursery and Seed Trade Catalog Collection

This colorful and informative collection of over 250,000 American and foreign nursery and seed catalogs ranging in date from 1771 to the present is one of the stars of NAL's Rare and Special Collections. See the history of gardening firsthand while helping to organize and safely store these catalogs.



J. Horace McFarland Collection

Conservationist and master printer J. Horace McFarland (1859-1948) started a business specializing in horticultural printing in 1878. This Pennsylvania company amassed a library of 30,000 to 40,000 plant watercolors, art work, and other photographic formats. Help us house these early twentieth century images safely and ensure their preservation for future generations.



USDA and Department of Health and Human Services Dietary Guidelines Collection



Interested in nutrition and health? Organize materials related to government dietary guidelines from 1977-1997. Correspondence, reports, notes, publications, posters, and audiotapes were gathered by Senator Bob Dole's staff member when Dole was on the Nutrition Subcommittee of the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee.

For questions or to volunteer, contact us at SpecialCollections@ars.usda.gov or 301-504-5876.

For more information about NAL's Rare and Special Collections see <http://www.nal.usda.gov/collections/>



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY

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NAL Repository

Contacts: Melanie Gardner, Melanie.gardner@ars.usda.gov, 301-504-6207

Estimate of time: on-going

Days available: Monday through Friday for at least a 4 hour time block between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Brief description of project including a breakdown of tasks to be completed by intern:

Identify and acquire items for NAL's institutional repository.

- Research & discover USDA publications for inclusion in the Repository
- Submit digital copies of USDA documents to Repository.

Desired skills/educational background:

- Familiarity with database & Internet searching.
- Attention to detail.

Deliverables:

- Submission of USDA content to the NAL Repository.

Learning objectives/developmental opportunities:

- Experience discovering, selecting, and acquiring materials for digital collections.
- Experience managing content within an institutional repository environment.

February 2011



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY

Internship Opportunities

www.nal.usda.gov

National Invasive Species Information Center

Contact: Joyce Bolton, joyce.bolton@ars.usda.gov , 301-504-6454

Estimate of time: On-going and flexible

Days available: Monday through Friday for at least a 3 hour time block between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Brief description of project including a breakdown of tasks to be completed by intern:

Assist in discovery of web-based resources for the National Invasive Species Information website.

www.Invasivespeciesinfo.gov/ is a gateway to invasive species information; covering Federal, State, local and International sources.

Desired skills/educational background:

- Knowledge of search strategies to find web-based resources.
- The ability to identify and evaluate appropriate resources for website.
- Ability to create and maintain web pages and web-based information products using knowledge of HTML and HTML editors (such as Dreamweaver).
- An interest in invasive species, biodiversity or environmental issues.

Deliverables:

- Create new species profiles for website.
- Update existing species profiles with relevant information.
- Update geographic-based resources.
- Update state laws and regulations resources.
- Update and maintain other sections of the website as needed, including fixing broken links.

Learning objectives/developmental opportunities:

- Experience selecting, discovering, and creating Web content for a unique Web portal.

January 2011



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DigiTop, USDA's Digital Desktop Library

Contact: Stan Kosecki, stan.kosecki@ars.usda.gov, 301-504-7114

Estimate of time: 240 hours

Days available: Monday through Friday for at least a 4 hour time block between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Brief description of project including a breakdown of tasks to be completed by intern:

Exploration of personalization in e-library environment

Desired skills/educational background:

- Computer science (user interfaces or similar), library degree, or another master-level degree related to information
- science.
- Proficiency with programming (such as ASP, Java, etc.).
- Skills in evaluating computer applications (from a developer and/or implementer perspective).
- Analytical and designing skills in user interfaces and personalization of user's experience.

Deliverables:

- Review of existing open source and low-cost technologies in area of personalization of user experience.
- Test and pilot most promising solutions and recommend directions for DigiTop services.

Learning objectives/developmental opportunities:

- Application of analytical skills in a library world.
- Practical application of computer skills in enhancing experience of users in e-library environment.
- Deeper understanding of user needs and behaviors in a virtual library setting.

January 2011



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Contact: Stan Kosecki, stan.kosecki@ars.usda.gov, 301-504-7114

Estimate of time: 240 hours

Days available: Monday through Friday for at least a 4 hour time block between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Brief description of project including a breakdown of tasks to be completed by intern:

Bibliometric analysis of impact of e-journals availability via DigiTop on citing references of USDA-authored publications.

Desired skills/educational background:

- Library degree or another master-level degree related to information science.
- Proficiency with processing large scale bibliographic data in a database environment (such as MySQL).
- Programming proficiency (such as Perl or PHP).
- Analytical skills, including application of statistical methods.

Deliverables:

- A time-series analysis of citing reference patterns and correlation with e-journals availability.
- A report will include trend analysis (subject disciplines, geographical locations, specific titles and year of publication ranges) and forecast for 3-5 years into a future.

Learning objectives/developmental opportunities:

- Application of analytical skills in a library world.
- Deeper understanding of an impact of e-library on researchers' reading patterns.

January 2011