

**Revealing the Secret: MassBLAST Internships for Teens Uncover the Mystery of
What Librarians Do!**

**Doris Ann Sweet
Simmons College
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MassBLAST is an IMLS funded project begun in Massachusetts that reaches out to diverse populations of high school students. Paid 40-hour internships in public and academic libraries introduce teens to librarianship as a possible career choice. Sample schedules, guidance for activities, and supporting resources at www.simmons.edu/massblast help any library that wishes to offer internships to local teens. Assessment shows positive changes in intern perceptions of libraries and librarians.

Revealing the Secret: MassBLAST Internships for Teens Uncover the Mystery of What Librarians Really Do!



Doris Ann Sweet
Simmons College
KLA/KSMA/SELA/ARL
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Question:

**How can we recruit a diverse,
new generation to the library
profession?**

MassBLAST

Building

Library

Awareness and

Staff for

Tomorrow

What Librarians **Really** Do

- **Technology**
- **Formal and Informal Education**
- **Focus on Communities' Needs**
- **Managers**
- **Literacy and Information Literacy**
- **Privacy and Censorship**

Diversity Internship Program



MassBLAST Funders



**H. W. Wilson
Foundation**


**Institute of Museum and
Library Services**

www.simmons.edu/massblast

"building library awareness and staff for tomorrow"

massBLAST **home** **on screen** **for interns** **for librarians** **about us**

"A library is not just an area to hold books. It holds the key to our education, our society, and our beliefs." Intern



Blastoff to the Library with Teen Internships

Librarians: Engage students from your community through library internships. Our proven curriculum provides an accessible road map for you.

Teens: Join your friends to learn about libraries, develop research skills, and explore strategies for success in college and your future careers.

Barcode Technique...



Guest Speaker



Boston Public Library



Information Literacy



First Interns



Intern Says...

“Before this internship I thought as many think: Librarians have uncomplicated jobs. They help people find books. This internship has helped me to understand the knowledge necessary to be a librarian and the resources needed to open and run a library.”

IMLS Grant 2005

MassBLAST Sponsors:

Simmons Library

**Simmons Graduate School of Library
and Information Science**

UMass Boston Library

Participating Libraries

Simmons College Library

UMass Boston Library

Athol Public Library

Boston Public Library

Cambridge Public Library

Holyoke Community College Library

Springfield City Library

Springfield College Library

West Springfield Public Library

Worcester Public Library

Librarian's Page

"building library awareness and staff for tomorrow"

massBLAST

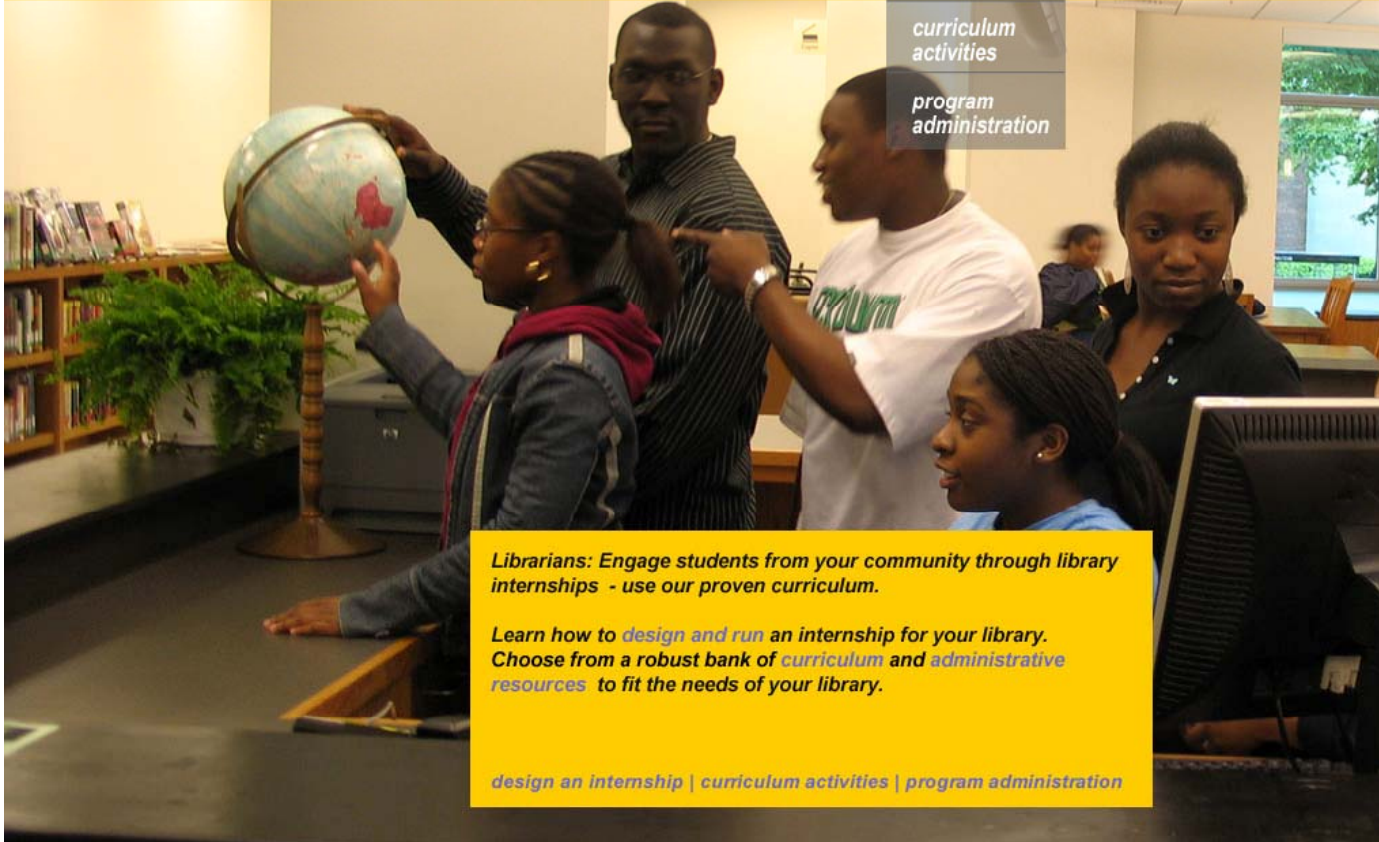
[home](#) [on screen](#) [for interns](#) [for librarians](#) [about us](#)

"Before this internship I thought as many think: librarians have uncomplicated jobs." Intern

[design an internship](#)

[curriculum activities](#)

[program administration](#)



Librarians: Engage students from your community through library internships - use our proven curriculum.

Learn how to [design and run an internship](#) for your library. Choose from a robust bank of [curriculum](#) and [administrative resources](#) to fit the needs of your library.

[design an internship](#) | [curriculum activities](#) | [program administration](#)

Reference Interview



Interlibrary Loan



Researching Colleges



What Goes Into a Resume?



Setting Up Camera



From Selection to Shelf



Intern's Book

 Send via Text Message

Author	Asante, Molefi K., 1942-
Title	Erasing racism : the survival of the American nation
Publisher	Amherst, N.Y. : Prometheus Books, 2003.

Location	Call Number	Status
Books - Level 2	E185.615 .A8 2003	AVAILABLE

Description	294 p., [8] p. of plates : ill. ; 24 cm.
Notes	In grateful recognition of Christina Joseph 's dedicated participation in MassBlast, the Library Diversity Internship Program 2008. Includes bibliographical references (p. 277-294) and index.
Subjects	United States -- Race relations. Racism -- United States. African Americans -- Civil rights. African Americans -- Social conditions -- 1975- African Americans -- Reparations. Simmons College. Libraries. -- Gifts. Joseph

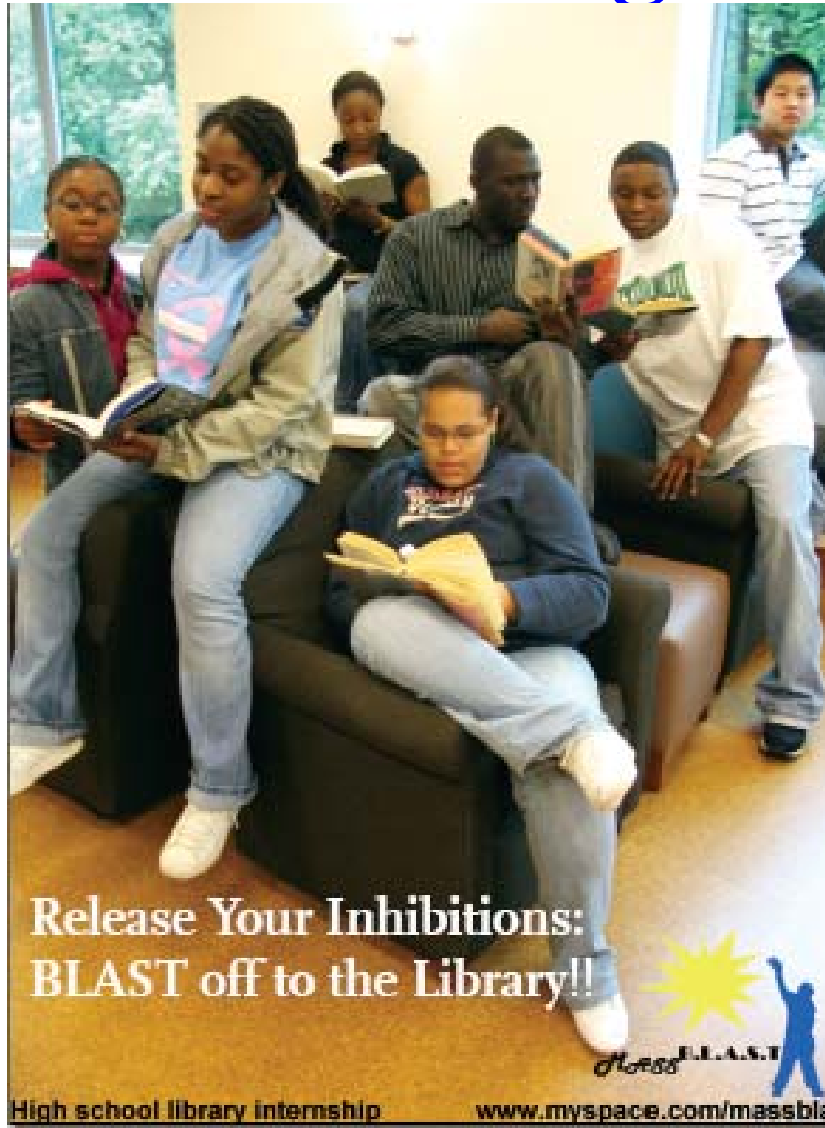
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Editing with iMovie



Summer Program



Release Your Inhibitions:
BLAST off to the Library!!

Mass BLAST

High school library internship www.myspace.com/massblast

On Screen

"building library awareness and staff for tomorrow"

massBLAST

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about us

"This internship has helped me to understand the knowledge necessary to be a librarian and the resources needed to open and run a library." Intern



Office Hours: Ask For Help

2:11

Students learn about the importance of asking teachers for help.



El Salvador Librarian

2:41

A student interviews a librarian working in El Salvador.



How to get a man... 101.

2:30

Students do research in a library to get a man!



Power, Knowledge & the Library.

2:31

Students talk about personal views on the importance of the library.



Primary Sources

1:59

Personal artifacts can be poignant primary sources.



MBTV

2:25

Reggie gives you a tour of his library.



productions are by massBLAST interns and librarians

download a quicktime of this clip
(rightclick on the link above and click "Save As")

links to other productions about libraries and research
suggestions for using these videos in your internship

Former Interns



Workshop for TLA's



Stipends

- Memorial fund in honor of library supporter
- Provost's diversity funding
- Community trust fund that support internships for young people
- Grant from local foundation

Public Librarians say...

“Staff working together on this project has benefited morale and our team approach to our tasks.”

“Energizing; I learned about pressures and issues in local youth's lives.”

Academic Librarian says...

“We actually got two great kids out of it. The institution benefited more than anything... we have students coming in who hadn’t considered us before.”

2008 Survey of Former Interns

- **Fifty percent “somewhat” interested in librarianship**
- **Thirty percent “very” or “extremely” interested in librarianship**

Interns Say...

“I believe this is a great internship and helps to develop many skills that would go untaught in schools.”

“I learned that librarianship can vary in different fields. There were many fields in librarianship that most people didn't know about.”

Interns Say...

“I love it and I would love to be able to work here someday real soon. The internship helped me feel comfortable going to the library.”

“Yes, I see the idea of librarianship as a career differently. It’s actually a possibility for me because I do love books and information. I never realized how important librarians really are.”

www.simmons.edu/massblast



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