

EMPORIA STATE UNIVERSITY

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INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Learning about diversity through global experiences:
The impact of the SLIM Global Experience program on
library science students' preparation and professional
practice.

Andrew Smith, Cynorra Jackson & Rachel Miles

Michael Tilford Conference - October 24, 2017

SLIM

- Six regional sites (Emporia, Kansas City, CO, OR, SD, UT)
- Cohort system
- Blended learning for core classes
- Online electives

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International Learning

- Commitment from Kansas
- Commitment from ESU & SLIM
- Online elective with field trip
- Students from each cohort
- Financial support from University
- Additional support from SLIM

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Service Learning

- Benefits
 - Hands-on learning
 - Service to host institution
- Drawbacks
 - Time
 - Language
 - Expertise
 - Equipment

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Experiential Learning

- Interaction
- Professional exchange
- Seeking understanding
- Workshops
- Conference presentations
- Program participation

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Experiential Learning

- Focus on students as learners not outside experts
- More opportunity for cultural immersion and learning
- Different approaches to common problems
- Innovative solutions

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Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

Describe the status of librarianship in *[the visited country]*

Compare and contrast the provision of library and information services in *[the visited country]* with that in the USA.

Discuss some of the opportunities for growth and current problems of libraries, archives, and the profession of librarianship in *[the visited country]*.

Appraise the strengths and weaknesses of library, information and/or archival services in the USA in light of the students' cross-cultural experiences.

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2008 - 2017

22 Global Experience courses

260 student participants

4 Continents

9 Countries

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Locations

North America

Mexico

South America

Paraguay

Southern Europe

Bulgaria

Croatia

Serbia

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Locations

Eastern Europe

Ukraine

Western Europe

England

Scotland

Africa

South Africa

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Impact and Legacy

Two recent program participants share their experiences
and the impact of the program on their professional practice

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London February 2015

CILIP Headquarters
The British Library
Egypt Exploration Society
Royal Academy of Music
British Film Institute
Wellcome Library
Wiener Library for the Study of the Holocaust and Genocide

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London February 2105

Cynorra Jackson
SLIM MLS graduate
Librarian, Wichita State University

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Serbia October 2015

Belgrade University Library
Belgrade City Library
American Corner, Belgrade
National Library of Serbia
Matica Srpska Library
International Library, Novi Sad
American Corner, Novi Sad
American Embassy

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Serbia October 2014 & October 2015

Rachel Miles
SLIM MLS graduate
Librarian Kansas State University

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Planning & Logistics

- Time
 - 12 – 18 months required
 - Importance of contacts, old and new
 - Accommodation, paperwork (passports, etc.)
 - Student preparation
- Support
 - Personnel – arrangements take time
 - Logistics – university procedures, liability

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Planning & Logistics

- Exploration and Discovery
 - Instructor must have some knowledge
 - Timing – holidays and customs
 - (Serbia follows the Orthodox religious calendar)
 - Transport in-country
 - Locations
 - Safety
- Field Trip Logistics
 - Package Tour – every day a new place
 - Temporary Residents – based in one location

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Managing the Learning

- Student Preparation
 - Provide enough information to keep students safe
 - Don't provide so much information you minimize the learning
 - Help students bond as a group before the trip
- During the Experience
 - Provide support and reassurance
 - Support learning and discovery
 - Provide opportunities to talk to locals

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Managing the Learning

- Debriefing
 - Is crucial
 - Help students negotiate return to US
 - Provide multiple avenues for reflection
 - Individual
 - Group
 - Encourage communication with locals
 - Answer questions
 - Promote collaboration

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Michael Tilford Conference 2017

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