

Check Out the Library

Library Scholar Internships: Real-world Projects with Real Impact

By Cyril Oberlander

Cal Poly Humboldt Library is a dynamic hub for discovery and powerful learning experiences that actively shape tomorrow's leaders. At Cal Poly Humboldt, the Library Scholar Internships stand out as high-impact educational opportunities designed to give students meaningful and transformative experiences. These internships are real-world projects and tasks that immerse students in research and development, culminating in learning new skills, connecting people, and truly transforming lives.

Library Scholar interns actively lead projects, applying theory into immediate practice. Imagine a student researching and writing content shared across the web, making Special Collections discoverable, curating digital exhibits, developing new applications, or applying specialized skills like text layout and digitization at The Press at Cal Poly Humboldt. These real-world projects offer students unparalleled opportunities to apply their learning to positive change.

Interns' hard work results in tangible products—like digital publications shared globally—that become vital additions to their professional portfolios. For instance, last Spring 2025, the Rohde Library Scholars interns Bryn Atkins, Autumn Indrebo, Anna Cisneros, Annabel Crescibene, and Serenity Wood completed archival practice in Special Collections resulting in enhancing the discovery of special collections. Intern Courtney Rowe built a customized AI to apply metadata to Masters Theses, and intern Katie Hennessy created a History of Literary Activism in Humboldt. Congratulations Library Scholar Interns for your outstanding learning and scholarship!

Over the course of the summer, I had the honor to work with Garrett Willis, the Atkins Library Scholar Intern. Garrett's internship enabled him to learn SpaceUse, a powerful application created years ago by students at Cal Poly Humboldt Library. For Garrett, learning to add new features on existing codebase proved invaluable.

"This is such an eye opener because out in the industry, you are very unlikely to be building a new application from the ground up... This internship has really helped change the way I approach a difficult problem, so thank you again for this amazing opportunity."

- Garrett Willis, Computer Science, '25

Paid Library Scholar Internships ensure that students gain confidence and knowledge, strengthen essential skills such as communication and teamwork, and help to clarify and position them for successful professional paths following graduation.

The transformational projects provided to our Library Scholar interns are designed to be powerful experiences thanks to dedicated mentorship. Mentorship unlocks potential, connecting research and reality to shape professional identity and experience for the future. We connect people and ideas.

We invite you to launch transformative learning and invest in expanding opportunities to students. By supporting the Library Scholar Internships, you are providing educational experiences that make a profound and lasting impact on the lives of students and the community, and advancing research and scholarship. For more information about supporting the Library, please visit library.humboldt.edu/giving-library

Explore the Hall of Simulation

By Maddy McLaughlin & Cyril Oberlander

Autumn is the perfect season for cozy mystery novels and crisp fall hikes, but what if your next great exploration was right inside the Cal Poly Humboldt Library? This fall, trade your trekking boots for a technological adventure in the redesigned Hall of Simulation (HoS), an exciting space dedicated to hands-on learning and sparking curiosity. Located on the second floor, the HoS is truly a learner's launchpad.

You can literally explore new horizons with the cutting-edge, FAA-certified flight simulator and enjoy an immersive flight experience without ever leaving the ground. Aspiring pilots—or anyone curious about aviation—can use authentic controls and instruments, with dynamic actuators simulating ascents, descents, and turns. For those fascinated by biology, dive deep using the Anatomage digital dissection table, which offers high-resolution 3D models of five human and 120 animal bodies. You can shape topographic maps on the student-built augmented reality sandbox, or even battle digital disasters like fires and floods on the SimTable.

The HoS also showcases the award-winning 3D Digital Herbarium, the world's first interactive 3D digital exhibit designed to inspire and enhance the learning and teaching of botany. These experiences enhance knowledge retention, improve problem-solving skills, and foster a deeper understanding of complex concepts across Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) topics.

The HoS isn't just about exploring technology; it's also a stage for student projects and our Cosmos in the Stacks endeavours. Cosmos in the Stacks, inspired by Alexander von Humboldt's Cosmos, is an evolving series of exhibits that turn the Library bookstacks into an adventure, with something new (and interactive) around every corner. Some of our most exciting exhibits have grown out of Library Challenges, issued by the Library Dean to a computer science capstone and engineering prototyping class each year. The 3D Digital Herbarium is an excellent example of a Computer Science Challenge, while the vibrant two-part Tidepool display (half are located in the Hall of Simulation, and half are located in the QL section of the stacks) is the result of



Left to right: Maddy McLaughlin, staff, Diego Rodriguez-Willie, student, Keith Flores, student, and Kaifer Cervantes, student

engineering ingenuity and efforts by Library staff and students. Last spring's prototypes, the Earthquake Shake Table and Wind Tunnel, invite you to get hands-on with the forces of nature. Student projects like these not only spark curiosity for everyone who interacts with them, but also give their student creators a chance to sharpen skills, gain experience, and bring their ideas to life.

The technology in the HoS is meant to inspire and provide a foundation for your learning adventure. Use these cutting-edge tools to deepen your knowledge of your favorite topics, or be inspired to discover new areas of interest. Launching from your digital adventure, walk among the Library's massive collection of resources of over half a million print holdings to connect you with ideas and information for your next project or passion.

Meet our Team

Our knowledgeable Hall of Simulation Student Docents are here to help you use these cutting-edge tools to deepen your knowledge and inspire new discoveries. Docents also help inspire and enhance learning by facilitating SkillShops, which are free co-curricular educational activities that help you explore, create, and innovate with topics related to personal, professional, and academic success. Introducing the team ready to help launch your next learning experience:

Charlie Ball: Charlie is a first-generation Kinesiology student with an interest in human physiology. His specialty is the Anatomage

table, and he enjoys helping others explore the structure and function of the human body. Don't hesitate to ask him questions about anything at all. He's always happy to share what he knows.

Kaifer Cervantes: Kaifer would love to have a chat and show you all the wonderful things about the HoS.

Nicholas Consedine: Nick was the first HoS student docent and graduated in Spring 2025 in the Environmental Science and Management:

Education and Interpretation program. His background included working in museums and zoos. We thank him for his contributions to understanding and teaching the technology in the HoS, and wish him all the best!

Keith Flores: Keith is a first-generation college student pursuing a degree



Image of Charlie Ball, student

in Psychology with a minor in Anthropology. His interests are working with the Anatomage table and exploring the Cosmos in the Stacks. Feel free to ask him about Star Wars, research ethics, restorative agriculture, and art.

Diego Rodriguez-Willie: Diego's interests lie in ecosystem ecology, conservation, and paleontology. He would be happy to demonstrate the capabilities of the HoS's SimTable or Flight Simulator.

Maddy McLaughlin: Maddy is the Library's Administrative Business Specialist who leads our incredible team of student docents in crafting unforgettable adventures at the Cal Poly Humboldt Library.

The Library is a dynamic learning environment committed to curating meaningful experiences that inspire exploration, creativity, and lifelong learning. Stop by the Hall of Simulation today—your next great discovery is waiting!

For more information about the project, equipment, or docent hours, visit the Hall of Simulation website at library.humboldt.edu/hall-simulation.

Library Celebrates Banned Books Week

By Cheryl Conner & Garrett Purchio

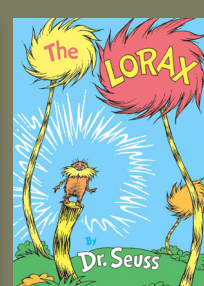
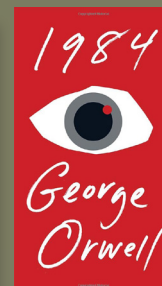
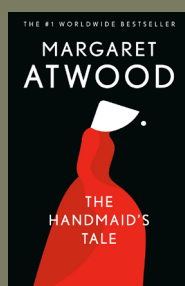
"Censorship is So 1984. Read for Your Rights" was this year's theme for Banned Books Week, held October 5 - October 11. The Cal Poly Humboldt Library hosted two events to celebrate Banned Books Week, which has been observed nationwide since 1982.

On Monday, October 6, a banned books trivia game tested competitors' knowledge of banned books and censorship efforts across the United States. Six participants competed on two teams. In addition to these events, a display was installed in the Library Nordstrom Lobby on the first floor, highlighting books that have been banned for various reasons.

The Banned Books Read Out was held Thursday, October 9 at noon in the Nordstrom Lobby and was attended by 20 people. The Read Out provides an opportunity for

everyone to come together and fight back against censorship by reading from books that have been challenged, banned, or censored. Books that were read from included, "Bridge to Terabithia," "The Bluest Eye," "The Lorax," and more.

The Library thanks everyone who participated in these events and viewed the display. For additional information on Banned Books Week, visit our research guide at libguides.humboldt.edu/bannedbooks and watch for what we have planned for next year!



Alumni in the Library

Part 2

By Cheryl Conner & Jessica Welch

Did you know that 10 of our amazing Cal Poly Humboldt Library employees are proud alumni of Cal Poly Humboldt? In Fall 2024, we celebrated six of these rockstar grads in our Alumni Spotlight Part 1. Now, in Part 2, we're thrilled to introduce the remaining four who continue to bring their Humboldt spirit to the Library every day. Missed Part 1? Catch up in the Fall 2024 newsletter, and keep reading below to meet the rest of our alumni crew!

In 1993, Lucy Ingrey earned a B.S. in Zoology, and was hired in 2013 as a Cataloging Librarian. *"The library seemed like such a mysterious place when I was a student. I recall having to find some microfilm for a class and being very intimidated in the process. I hope that students don't feel that way now. I hope they know we are here to help them succeed."*

In 2014, Jessica Schlachter earned a B.A. in Journalism with a minor in Women's Studies and worked as a library student assistant from 2010-2014. She was hired in 2024 as an Information Resource Specialist to do copy cataloging, book mending, and to oversee periodicals. *"Journalism taught me how to assess sources - for accuracy, relevance, and timeliness, which I believe is vital to libraries and their collections."*

In 2017, Melitta Rojas-Jackson earned a B.A. in Studio Art and a minor in Art History. While a student Melitta was a Special Collections intern. She was hired in 2021 as the Resource Sharing Coordinator and is currently working on a M.A. in Environment and Community. *"I can't say that I utilized the Library to the best of my ability as an undergrad. It was big and maze-like and I was shy and felt so small. But as a masters student, I feel like I'm constantly talking about the resources we have and offer in almost all my classes, not to mention using them myself. One of the best things to do is go pick a librarian's brain when I'm feeling stumped or unsure about a project."*

In 2018, Sarah Godlin earned a B.A. in English with an emphasis in Writing Practices, worked as a student assistant and intern in 2017 and 2018. In 2021, she received her Masters in Publishing and was hired that year as the Special Collections Archivist and Publisher for The Press at Cal Poly Humboldt. *"I love working with the publications I was a part of during my undergrad years at the University. This is how my experience here directly prepared me for my current position."*

There's just something magical about Humboldt that makes graduates want to stick around, and let's be honest, the Library is kind of the heart of it all! Year after year, grads find themselves irresistibly pulled toward the stacks, the study nooks, and the vibrant hum of campus life. So who's next? Maybe this year's class holds the future librarians, archivists, or research wizards of Cal Poly Humboldt. The shelves are waiting.



Left to right: Melitta Rojas-Jackson, staff, Lucy Ingrey, librarian, Jessica Schlachter, staff, and Sarah Godlin, staff

Cal Poly Humboldt Library Achieves Sustainable Library Certification

By Morgan Barker

The Cal Poly Humboldt Library is proud to announce that we have achieved Sustainable Library Certification through the Sustainable Libraries Initiative. Cal Poly Humboldt is the 4th Academic Library in the nation and the 2nd in the CSU to become certified.

Libraries have always been natural spaces for sustainability - encouraging borrowing before buying, supporting circular economies, and serving as hubs of community connection. At Cal Poly Humboldt, the Library provides access to open information and resources, ensuring equitable opportunities for learning and research. From textbooks to technology, we help students and faculty make sustainable choices while facilitating collaboration and shared stewardship of knowledge.

As sustainability leaders, librarians play a unique role in integrating sustainability across the curriculum, research, and campus ecosystem. Our Library's work extends beyond resource sharing: we contribute to just transitions, highlight intersectional perspectives, honor place-based knowledge, and cultivate reverence for diverse ways of knowing. This recognition highlights our commitment to sustainability progress within higher education, and it also provides valuable support for the University's AASHE (Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in



Cal Poly
Humboldt.

SUSTAINABLE
LIBRARY
CERTIFICATION

University Library
Arcata, CA 95521
June 2025



Sustainable
Libraries
Initiative

All photos in this slideshow are from the Cal Poly Humboldt Library Special Collections, Flickr, by Morgan Barker, Bri Hagen and other wonderful Library students, staff, and faculty.

Higher Education) STARS (Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System) Report by completing this certification as extra credit toward our campus-wide sustainability rating.

In addition, the certification strengthens our alignment with the Institutional Learning Outcomes (ILOs) on sustainability and reinforces our ongoing support for the Graduation Pledge for Social and Environmental Responsibility. With this certification, the Library reaffirms its role as a thoughtful partner in building a more sustainable, equitable, and resilient Cal Poly Humboldt community.



Scan this QR code to learn more about how our Library works to promote sustainability!
hum.link/SustainableCert



Stay Connected with Us Through Social Media

The Library has a lot to share with you whether you're a continuing student or a new freshman! Stay connected and follow us on social media to get updates about events, resources, SkillShops, and more about what's happening with Cal Poly Humboldt Library.

Find us on Instagram @CalPolyHumboldtLibrary, Facebook @CalPolyHumboldtLibrary, X (formerly Twitter) @CalPolyHumLib, and YouTube: Cal Poly Humboldt University Library.

Tag your stories and posts with #CalPolyHumboldtLibrary as you connect with the Library.



Where Are They Now?

By Scarlett Stromer

Scarlett Stromer attended Cal Poly Humboldt from 2018 to 2020. She worked part-time as the Library Project Technician, conducting an array of projects throughout the different departments in the Library. Before pursuing a Wildlife Management and Conservation degree, she always knew she wanted to research giraffes when she “grew up.”

After graduating and gaining work experience in the public and private sectors as a wildlife biologist, she never lost sight of her big dream of moving to Africa to study giraffes. In December of 2024, she received her big break. She was accepted as a master’s student at the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal, South Africa, collaborating with the Anne Innis Dagg Foundation to study giraffe activity budgets (behavior). As soon as she could, she applied for her study visa and got on a one-way flight to South Africa where she will continue her studies through September 2026.

Today, Scarlett compares social, environmental, and ecological differences in activity budgets at three study locations throughout Kwa-Zulu Natal province. She spoke widely and loudly of her ambitions during her academic career. With the help of your peers and professors, having consistent passion, and an uncanny inner drive, anyone can make their dreams come true.



Image of Scarlett Stromer, alum

Did You Know?

Giraffes sleep standing up and survive on just 30 minutes of sleep a day!

Giraffes may not have fingerprints like humans and primates – however, their spots make them unique! Each giraffe has a unique pattern of spots that you won’t find anywhere else, which helps in telling them apart!

Giraffes form groups called towers, usually with around 15 members!

Giraffes are well known for their incredibly long necks, but did you know: an adult male giraffes can grow to around 18 feet tall - that’s taller than three adult humans stacked!

Even though they have the longest neck of any mammal, giraffes have only 7 vertebrae in their neck; the same amount as humans!

A giraffes tongue can measure 20 inches in length. This allows it to wrap around branches and pull leaves from trees to eat. They are also purple in color, primarily due to the presence of melanin, which protects them from sunburn while they feed under the intense African sun!

Textbooks on Reserve Program Breaks Records for Affordability

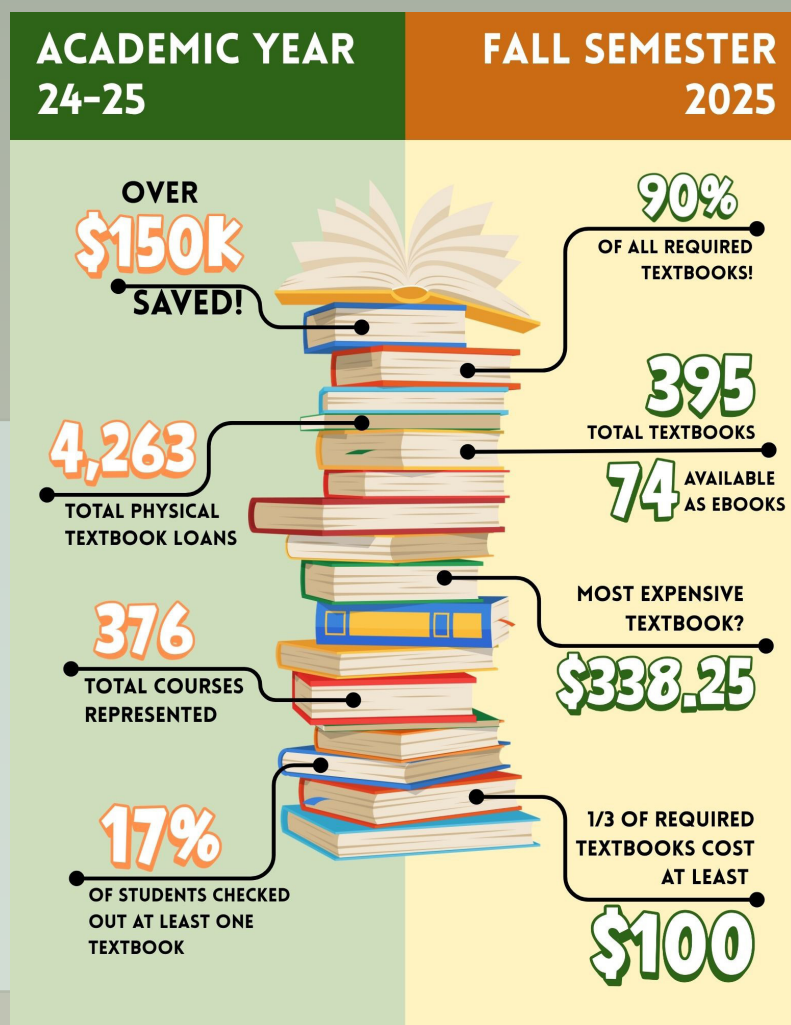
By Xandra Gradine & Cyril Oberlander

The Library is excited to announce that for the first time, we provide free access to 90% of the required textbooks for the current semester. Cal Poly Humboldt students are now able to access required readings without paying out of pocket for expensive textbooks. This enhanced coverage is made possible through funding provided by CSU Affordable Learning Solutions, faculty that provide instructor copies, and our Library collection.

- 90% (395/439) of reported required textbooks for all classes are available as a physical short-term loan or online ebook.
- \$86.99 is the average cost of a required textbook for the Fall 2025 semester. 33% (149/439) of reported required textbooks cost at least \$100. Five textbooks cost over \$300. The most expensive textbook this semester is \$338.25 and 131 students are enrolled in the courses that use that textbook.
- In the 2024-25 academic year, we served over 1,000 unique students, saving them an estimated \$150,000.

Required course materials often impose a stressful financial burden on students. Fortunately, the Cal Poly Humboldt Library is dedicated to making learning accessible and helping students afford college. The Library's Course Materials on Reserve program is an essential student lifeline, ensuring equal access to required readings and eliminating additional expenses. This commitment works alongside the larger CSU Affordable Learning Solutions (AL\$) initiative, which, in conjunction with promoting Open Educational Resources (OER), has proved profoundly successful. OER adoption alone has saved students over \$1.7 million in textbook costs over six years.

Whether you need access to a textbook for a short-term loan or free online materials, the Library is focused on transforming systems and creating student choice and equity. We are the constant crucial connector of people and ideas.



Students: Please leverage these free resources.

Faculty: Please share your instructor copy if you have one.

Library Friends: Please consider giving to Textbooks on Reserve to enable the Library to purchase required textbooks for reserve.

You can view which textbooks are available for your course on the Reserves webpage at library.humboldt.edu/course-reserves-textbooks.

For questions or recommendations about our Reserves program please email reserves@humboldt.edu

L4Humboldt Brings Summer Learning to Life



By Jessica Welch

This summer, the Library was the place to be as L4Humboldt returned with nearly 100 workshops designed to spark curiosity, creativity, and connection. From June to August, over 260 participants engaged in everything from rock painting and film screenings to walking tours, dance lessons, trivia games, Library Olympics, and even sound baths.

The LifeLong Learning Lounge (L4Humboldt) professional development series is a campus-wide celebration of learning, welcoming participants of all ages and interests. Whether your goal was to discover something new, connect with others, or simply enjoy yourself, L4Humboldt *Gather & Grow* offered meaningful experiences for everyone.

Mark your calendars for next summer's L4Humboldt series! If you have a skill, passion, or topic you are excited about, consider getting involved and helping others learn something new.

Thank you to everyone who attended, facilitated, and helped build this engaging learning community. L4Humboldt was a huge success. See you next summer! Learn more at libguides.humboldt.edu/l4humboldt.

Contributors

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Check Out the Library is published in the fall, spring, and summer. library.humboldt.edu

Have a library story to share with the campus? Writing for the Library newsletter is easy! Students, staff, and faculty are encouraged to contact the Library Marketing & Outreach Team at libmarketing@humboldt.edu to learn more about sharing a story in the next newsletter.

Upcoming Events

Decolonizing Sustainability Speaker

November 13, 2025

nasp.humboldt.edu/decolonizing-sustainability-speaker-series

Slice of AI & Pie

November 14, 2025

12pm - 2pm

Library room 308

Join us for this lively discussion exploring artificial intelligence in Higher Education.

<https://library.humboldt.edu/slice-ai-pie>

Transgender Day of Remembrance

November 20, 2025

An annual observance that honors the memory of transgender people whose lives were lost in acts of anti-transgender violence. We educate, advocate, and honor through a candle light vigil.

11:30 @ Gutswurrak Student Activities Center Quad