The Young Readers Center (YRC) at the Library of Congress was established in 2009 as a place for children under age 16 to experience the Library of Congress. It is the first such center in the more than 200-year history of the Library.

Visitors come from around the country and around the world to read from the more than 5,000 non-circulating books in the collection targeted to all age groups and representing all literary genres, including books in other languages, as well as Braille and talking books. The YRC features a unique puppet theater, literature-themed arts and crafts, a weekly story time, customized programming for groups of children and teens, specialized displays on current topics and themes, and suggested reading and book lists.

With a mission to inspire the love of reading and family literacy, the Young Readers Center has served more than 40,000 visitors in fewer than four years.

The Young Readers Center Intern will receive a $500 stipend

Internship Experience Projects/Activities May Include:

- Planning and designing literary programs for early childhood – teens to instill knowledge, motivate reading, inspire critical thinking skills.
- Front line public service interaction with children, parents, educators, and caregivers, including providing reader advisory services and identifying appropriate books for young visitors and their adult companions.
- Conducting research on award-winning children’s books and other related topics.
- Writing and creating power point productions, flyers, book summaries, and other related support materials for YRC programs and displays.
- Researching ways to help transform the YRC reference system including selecting and de-selecting titles.
- Collection development.
- Monitoring advance reader copies” (ARCs)
- Facilitating the YRC Friday “Story Time.”
- Investigating ways to interface YRC content/events with other LOC activities and assist with promotion/publicity for YRC programs.

Internship Requirements

- Student must work 20 hours/week at the YRC (located in the Jefferson Building at the Library of Congress) during the Fall 2015 semester. Scheduling accommodations will be made for class conflicts.
- Produce one major project for the YRC in conjunction with iSchool advisor and YRC director to be featured at the YRC during or at the competition of the internship. Project to be determined by the intern and supervisor.
- Student will be required to complete all training for LOC volunteers and abide by the rules and regulations as defined by the Library of Congress.
- Students who wish to complete the internship as their field study requirement must register for the field study course and complete all projects and documentation required for credit.

Application Guidelines:
Submission Materials
1. A document with the following information:
   a. Name
   b. Anticipated semester and year of graduation
   c. Current GPA
   d. Email address
   e. Phone number

2. A current resume

3. 500 word essay on why you should be selected for this LOC/UMD iSchool Internship and how it would contribute to your career goals.

Submit all documents by email to:

Karen Jaffe
Head, Library of Congress Young Readers Center
kjaf@loc.gov

AND

Lindsay Sarin
MLS Program Coordinator
lcsarin@umd.edu

Deadline to Apply: April 17, 2015

More About the Young Readers Center

The Young Readers Center is administered by the Library of Congress Center for the Book, which was established by Public Law in 1977 to promote books, reading libraries and literacy. The Center for the Book has a national reputation as a leader in literacy and reading promotion, and it has established affiliated centers in all states, the District of Columbia and the U.S. Virgin Islands to help carry out its mission.

The Young Readers Center’s Mission
• Create an accessible entry into the Library of Congress for children and families
• Introduce high-quality, age-appropriate and engaging literature to children and their families and caregivers
• Lay the foundation for creating lifelong readers by building young children’s development of receptive language (hearing and understanding), which precedes the development of expressive (spoken) language to provide the foundation for literacy
• Model best practices in sharing books and literacy-building activities
• Build a community around books through active engagement of volunteers, community, interns, staff and children