



## A new generation of information professionals...

Innovations in information and communication technologies have transformed our society. Tomorrow's information professionals must be prepared, not only to utilize technology, but also to think critically about its social implications in order to address real issues in their communities.

**Community Informatics (CI)**, a new specialization at the University of Illinois' Graduate School of Library and Information Science, is a program that prepares students to:

- Understand how people use information and communication technologies
- Think about literacy as an evolving concept that includes the skills needed to navigate our high-tech world
- Find ways to make technology work for people, not the other way around
- Collaborate and forge networks with organizational and community stakeholders

*Are you a library, museum, cultural center, community/non-profit organization or other type of institution committed to serving communities?*

## Consider hosting an internship for a community informatics student!

CI interns have the community engagement background and research and technical skills your organization needs to connect with other institutions, identify community assets and needs, and create solutions, services and programs that are essential to the community.

CI students have:

- Built community technology centers (CTCs) in economically depressed areas and trained local residents in computer maintenance and repair
- Helped local teens curate an ethnic heritage exhibit for a renowned cultural center
- Created community libraries
- Coordinated an after-school reading and homework help program for K-7 at-risk youth
- Organized local history archives of underrepresented groups.

To view profiles of CI students and their projects, please visit:  
[www.cii.uiuc.edu/profiles](http://www.cii.uiuc.edu/profiles).

# What is a Community Informatics Internship?

Community Informatics internships provide students or recent graduates with field experience that allows them to integrate previous work experience, and knowledge and skills gained through LIS coursework into an information services role in a public or school library, museum or cultural center, or a community or non-profit organization.

The goals of the internship program are to:

- Increase student understanding of the information needs and processes of the community with which they are working.
- Provide students an opportunity to work with an underserved group or community (for example, rural, urban, recent immigrant, ethnic minority, at-risk youth, elderly, or others).
- Help communities reach their goals using information, education, technology infrastructure and training, or civic engagement and renewal.
- Allow students to work with others in their field and develop professional contacts.

For more information about employing CI students, visit [www.cii.uiuc.edu/employers](http://www.cii.uiuc.edu/employers) or contact GSLIS practicum and internship coordinator Lynn Hanson at [lmhanson@illinois.edu](mailto:lmhanson@illinois.edu) or 217-333-6202.

## About Community Informatics at Illinois

The Community Informatics Initiative is a center for research and teaching focused on working with communities to address their information and technology needs.

The Community Informatics (CI) program is a specialization for Master's students in GSLIS. In addition to degree requirements, CI students complete three courses that consider how communities use information and communication technologies, the practice and theory of community engagement and the fundamentals of social science research. It combines traditional classroom methods with project work that takes students into surrounding communities and puts them in contact with community members and organizations.

### Community Informatics Initiative

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