

February 2022 SW Intern and IDEA Team Library Innovation Subcommittee Report

Social Work Intern Cohort

- Part of an ongoing focus to expand and meet social service needs of communities. Last summer Shawn, Mark I., and Mark J. reached out to field placement staff from UW-Madison and UW-Stevens Point to explore placing social work interns in libraries. These social work interns could assist in a variety of ways: provide direct service, work on library projects, and/or provide staff training opportunities. We invited member libraries to participate in a SW Intern Cohort. 14-member libraries elected to do so.
 - The SW Intern Cohort met on three occasions: November 2021, December 2021, and February 2021 to identify needs, concerns, and logistics.
 - The Cohort responded to a large topics survey to identify major needs and projects
 - Currently, participating libraries are completing field placement paperwork. Placements will be offered to prospective interns beginning in March. Libraries will then interview interns who expressed interest. Matched interns will start in August.

IDEA Team – Libraries Talk about Race

- The IDEA (Inclusion Diversity Equity in Action) Project is an LSTA-funded statewide initiative to plan a series of training opportunities for library staff on topics related to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). In 2022, the focus is on race and racial equity resulting in the, Libraries Talk about Race project. The project was planned and implemented in consultation with The People Company, a DEI training and consulting firm.
 - Webinars on Racial Equity topics will be delivered by The People Company on following dates:
 - February 15th at 10 AM ([Register](#))
 - March 9th at 10 AM ([Register](#))
 - April 14th at 1 PM ([Register](#))
- After the first webinar, the library community is invited to participate through independent study opportunities found through the Libraries Talk about Race website: <https://www.wislibidea.com/>.
- Last week discussion group facilitators received training from the People Company. Large group discussions will start to be offered in March.