

ASSESSING SOCIAL WORK STUDENTS IN PUBLIC LIBRARY FIELD PLACEMENTS THROUGH AN EQUITY- MINDED SOTL LENS

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I will analyze social work student experiences within public libraries to assess learning and skill development. The UWSP social work program is in a unique position for social work students to develop practice skills and demonstrate competencies within libraries. Library social work aligns with our professional mission and values due to opportunities for policy revision, advocacy, case management, and community network building through a social justice lens. UWSP social work interns will assist with services in SCLS libraries, and goals and responsibilities were developed from surveying library staff about unmet needs in the SCLS Libraries. As field coordinator, I will use weekly supervision meetings, site visits, and evaluations to assess their experiences. In particular, I will assess how student experiences within libraries have increased their utilization of equity-minded practices, such as trauma informed care, cultural humility, and self-determination with vulnerable populations (Miller-Young, J. & Yeo, M, 2015).

