

The Review

August 2024

IST 973 Final Reflection

INSIDE

Closing the Gap

The growth of my operational knowledge at the Chicago Fed

Coursework Connection

Using data science to drive archival decision-making.

Career Outlook

Becoming a librarian in today's digital economy.



Closing the Gap

In terms of operations, I was surprised to discover there are only one or two archivists per bank across the Federal Reserve System. Pictured above are some of these archivists along with me in the front row on the far right.

I was proud to tell the archivists about the projects I worked on for this internship, especially a project on representing Chicago's Detroit Branch in the Digital Archive. They were impressed with the care and intention I put into the work, and they praised me for developing a data-driven assessment process to recommend several hundred photographs for ingestion.

The Money Museum and the Federal Reserve System have an amazing collection, wonderful exhibits, and wonderful people supporting collection development, but simply not enough manpower to precisely document its complex and storied past. Through this project, I was able to close that gap just a bit.

The Review



Coursework Connection

One of the three courses I found myself referring to repeatedly was IST 616: Information Resources: Organization & Access.

IST 616 taught me traditional methods of cataloging such as using the Library of Congress classification system as well as how to read and write a MARC record. While many traditional methods of cataloging rely on item-level descriptions, I was able to apply these foundational concepts of accessing information at a much larger scale thanks to the Data Science component of my program.

In conjunction with the solid foundation that IST 616 provided, I used programming skills gained from IST 652 and digital database concepts from IST 722 to manage a collection of thousands of items.

Career Outlook

After presenting my Intern Capstone to Fed Archivists, Rennie Lum, San Francisco's archivist, asked me if all the kids just know how to write programs in python now.

The answer: Of course not.

Because I see a continual disconnection between our physical and digital realities, I chose Syracuse's Digital Librarian specialization to better understand novel repositories like GitHub and Python. Traditional methods of preserving history and knowledge translate very well to novel concepts like Generative AI and cloud-based storage systems, but people from all walks of life are simply not making the connection. I am the librarian who does, and I plan to work in Tech.