This summer I did a co-op work term at the StFX library as a summer student library assistant. Since this was a co-op work term for me, and because the library was closed to the public when I started in May, I worked on my own projects in my fifth-floor office instead of helping at the access service desks downstairs. The opportunity to have a private workspace with all the resources (multiple monitors, speakers, webcam, mic, headset, etc.) provided was new for me, I felt much more respected as a colleague than in previous jobs where I worked in whichever space was available.

On my first day, I had a meeting with my supervisors Margaret and Meghan. Margaret had worked with Dalhousie's library doing some of the work I would be doing, and Meghan worked with the StFX repositories and publishing. That meeting was online, but I also got an in-person tour from the School Librarian Sandy and would later work more with her and the other student library assistants.

My first project was to make a new search box for the library website. This one needed to switch between tabs of different resources to search all contained within the search box, as opposed to the previous box that would redirect to new pages for each tab. I worked with Margaret for most of my projects as she had experience with similar work as well as having a degree in computer science so knew how to help with the technical work. I made the search box with HTML, designed it with CSS, and programed the tabs with a bit of JavaScript.

My next project was for Meghan, she had been searching for publications manually to check for open-access policies and wanted a program that would check them for her. We worked together on the planning; she gave me an outline of what she needed the program to do, but she was not familiar with the technology behind it. Margaret directed me to the API (application programming interface) for Sherpa/Romeo, the database Meghan had been checking open-access policies on. I worked with Python 3.7 and the program checked policies in Sherpa/Romero's back-end and would return the policies and when material would become available in excel format.

Next, I checked for and fixed accessibility issues with the library's Subject Guides. I watched a conference Margaret attended on the topic and later registered for a presentation on screen readers. This is important work experience to have, for my future users as well as being something employers should be looking for as accessibility is a priority more within industries.

As I finalized my search box, Margaret reached out to the other librarians for feedback. I really appreciated the input from others as since I had been working on the box for weeks, I knew what to expect and accepted the way it was. Sandy got one complaint about it so she asked me and Margaret if we could do a usability test. After completing a course on usability testing, I realized it would be valuable

experience to have as I would have to prepare a script and task list and host the sessions myself. I tested five subjects with various roles in the library and asked them to perform tasks with the search box while thinking aloud. The tests were great, I am working on the revisions in my last week but seeing how people think through things and find their way around my search box provided insight into what the user sees in my work.

I have two meetings a week with Margaret to catch up on my work and talk about what I will work on the following week. I also have been attending meetings for fall orientation as well as the new makerspace coming to the library. There has been a lot of positive feedback throughout my term, and it feels good to have my work praised by the other librarians. Sandy liked my work so much that she offered a part-time position in the fall doing the same work. I was happy to accept and am excited as one of my responsibilities will be running the new 3D printer. This work term was a fantastic opportunity for me, I gained valuable on-the-job experience and skills as well as confidence in my work and ability to contribute good to the workplace.