Reflective Essay

For this work term I worked at the same position as my last term. My job title was junior systems developer at the Angus L Macdonald library. I worked remote from my home in Dartmouth this summer, last summer I was working in person at the library in my own office. Kind of silly I was in person last summer when we had that big wave and now, I'm remote when all the restrictions are lifted. Margaret Vail was my supervisor again; she has been such a great help and influence on me, my work, and my career. She's always looking for projects that would provide new experiences in different areas of computer science and has been helping me with my resume for applying to new co-op positions, as she and her husband have experience in software engineering and know what should be included in a technical resume.

This summer I continued some work from my last term, mostly documenting my code and making minor changes. I had to get my products ready for when I'm not working with them anymore, so I worked on commenting my code and writing up descriptions and instructions so other people will be able to pick up where I left off. This is great practice for when (if) I'm working with a bigger company and using other people's code and leaving code for other people to use. I also worked a bit to set up/finalize the 3D printing workflow for custom orders for librarians to use.

I also started a couple new projects. Data Liberation Initiative (DLI) works with Statistics Canada doing presentations, and they publish those presentations to a CUDO repository. This summer, DLI migrated their presentations from the old repository to the Borealis Dataverse and Margaret was a part of the team working on it. She was supposed to be migrating the files and metadata but thought of me and how this would be a great opportunity to work with a team on a project. Since they do presentations also, they presented this migration project, and my name and photo were included in the PowerPoint when they presented at the IASSIST Conference in Sweden! We're still finishing up the complete import now, but for the conference I had to meet a deadline so that the batch uploaded presentations could be included in the presentation. This was a great experience working with a group and meeting deadlines, as my work is individual and at my own pace for the most part.

Another project I'm working on is importing old Coady images to the Digital Collection. I was given some of Margaret's code she had been writing for other collections and had to alter it to work with this format and content. This was good practice in reading, understanding, using, and editing other people's code, and in formatting and troubleshooting metadata for import. I was also tasked with converting Word documents and PowerPoints to PDF and Excel to csv for document preservation, and this was something new I figured out on my own and got to work really well!

Overall, this work term was full of learning experiences and opportunities to expand the work that I can do. I had the chance to work on a project presented on another continent, contributed to the StFX library's archive, and learned new skills that I will continue to use for the rest of my career.