Project Information Literacy (PIL), a national research institute that studies students in the digital age, has an opening for a part-time “PIL Fellow” in 2021. The Fellow will work with the team on a new occasional series we are launching called "The PIL Provocation Series."

In particular, we are seeking a candidate for this new Fellow position that is a very strong and persuasive communicator, and who has existing editorial experience with scholarly writing, critical thinking about the profession, and creating web-based publications. We are also looking for a creative person who brings skills, know-how, and imagination to PIL that complements the team’s existing expertise and abilities.

The selected Fellow will join the PIL Research Team on January 11, 2021 and will work virtually on average 6-8 hours during the M-F through June 30, 2021. The Fellow will be paid a $500 stipend at the conclusion of the fellowship in June 2021. The Fellow must be based in the U.S. The deadline for applying for this PIL Research Fellow by completing this Google Form is December 10, 2020, noon PST. We will conduct phone interviews with 3-4 finalists to discuss the Fellow's tasks in greater detail and answer any questions finalists' may have.

Interested? Please submit your application using this GForm at: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf20zSuhg9YQvk9_265cR7PZA-NbIrJr4YjrcCYt0wX-FyfZA/viewform

ABOUT THE FELLOWSHIP

The PIL 2021 Fellow will work virtually on a brand new initiative, the “PIL Provocation Series.” The purpose of this occasional series is to provide the library and higher education fields with an OA forum for formalizing and voicing pressing information literacy-related issues, ideas, and concerns while raising solutions or new ways of thinking for plotting a way forward. The goal of the web-based publications is to create better teaching and learning opportunities for students, librarians, and educators, while identifying new directions that inform future research.

The Fellow will develop mastery in working with a team on writing, editing, and fact-checking, while producing a new critical librarianship series that identifies and clearly articulates important information literacy issues for advancing the field. In addition to learning and practicing rigorous methods of critical evaluation of qualitative and quantitative submissions to the series, the Fellow will learn the day-to-day process of what’s involved in creating a new issue-oriented publication that is timely, relevant, original and groundbreaking. The Fellow will also develop deep collaboration and project management skills through working closely with 6-7 geographically dispersed team
members who bring diverse expertise to the tasks of producing a new series from scratch.

ABOUT THE NEW PIL PROVOCATION SERIES

In simple terms, this series focuses on what hasn't been said about information literacy that needs to be brought to light for more discussion. Articles in this series are a departure from the PIL research reports we normally publish. Instead, these articles are in a category journalists might call either op/ed, analysis, or “long read” essays that are 1,500 – 2,000 words each. If you want an example of what we mean, then think of an engaging Atlantic piece in their “Ideas” section.

This initiative begins with a soft launch in early 2021 with contributors to this series who currently work on the PIL Team, and by invitation, a handful of leading information literacy scholar/practitioners in the US and UK. We envision producing 5-6 current, timely, and relevant papers throughout 2021, released at different times during the year. The first 2-3 of these papers will be released early in 2021 to introduce the series, build readership, and attract additional funding.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR APPLICANTS

We are specifically looking for applicants for the “PIL Research Fellow” with the following qualities:

1) Ability to work virtually between 6-8 hours, on average, during the M-F work week with availability to discuss the project with the team in scheduled meetings during the day from January 11, 2021 – June 30, 2021 (including permission from a dean, director, or supervisor that you are available to spend time working on our project).

2) Highly collaborative, collegial, professional, and with a sense of humor and can easily establish camaraderie with others (not optional).

3) First-hand experience with publishing, writing, reviewing, and fact-checking in a fast-paced and highly collegial work environment.

4) A strong interest and knowledge, and original ideas, about current issues across diverse library and higher education landscapes that need to be addressed, but rarely are.

5) Strong interest in conducting research and writing about information literacy, today’s students, and the impact of a changing world on information seeking.

6) An MLS or related graduate degree.

7) Previous training and experience in research methods and familiarity with research terminology as well as emerging library issues.

We anticipate there may be more responses for the PIL Fellowship than there are available openings this year. We will, therefore, make the final sample selection based on your: (1) research and publishing experience, (2) willingness to dive in, work with
others, and learn new skills quickly, (3) (passionate!) interest about students and their information seeking practices, and awareness of critical issues facing the field, and (4) expertise and talents that complement those of existing team members.

Thanks in advance for understanding the necessity of our highly selective evaluation process for this project.

For more details about the Provocation Series, please visit https://docs.google.com/document/d/1CmAfjXSaOWd5dEI3xZ-2bSBIWmTbQ9mtNCtBHIahV8/view

Thank you and best of luck if you choose to apply!

- Alison

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