

# LIBRARIAN IN THE MAKING

*Before graduating in May 2017, our former student worker, Emily Cooper, shared with us her love of the Library and a bit about her future plans.*

I'm a senior at UMass Amherst and I study Art History and French and Francophone Studies. In my final semester I was fortunate to be able to participate in a practicum offered by the Art History department during which I conducted personally curated tours of the Kara Walker exhibit, "Emancipating the Past: Kara Walker's Tales of Slavery and Power," at the University Museum of Contemporary Art on campus. The opportunity I had to discuss these dense and sometimes difficult images with the general public during my tours has quickly become one of the most rewarding, sobering, and memorable experiences here at UMass.

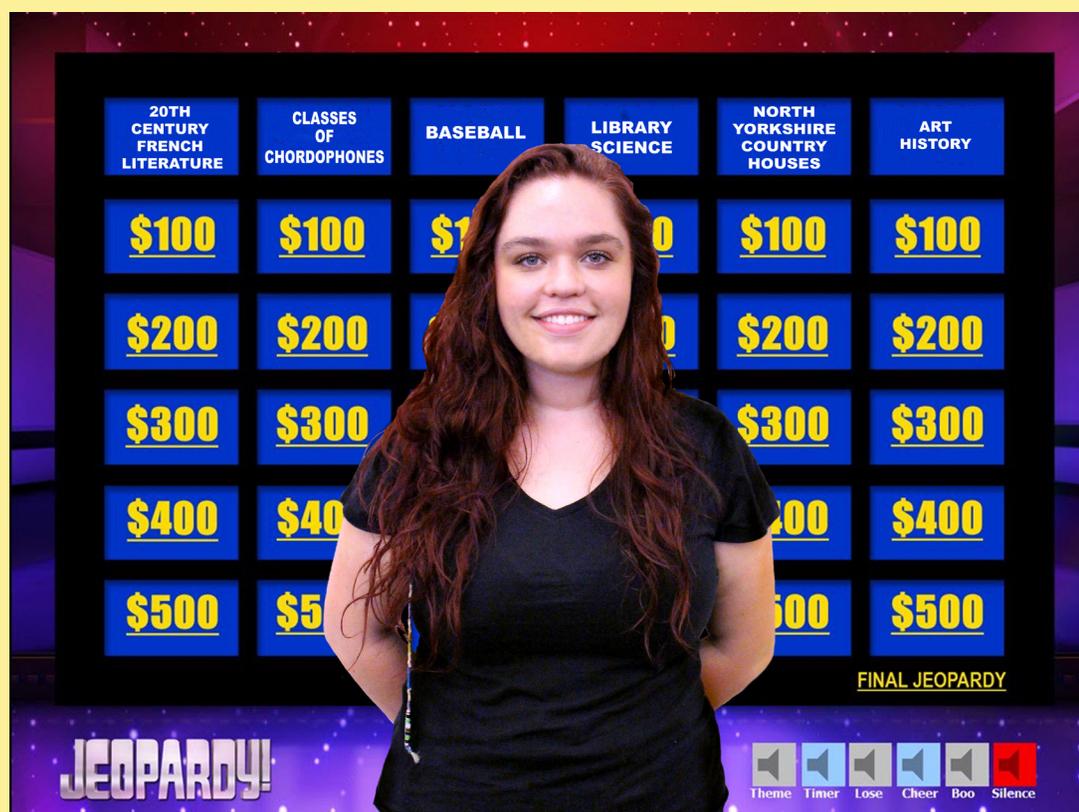
In addition, this semester I am currently enrolled in a 20th century French literature course, by far my favorite course I have taken at UMass, that closely examines the idea of existentialism and absurdism and how we cope with these governing ideas in our daily lives. Participating in this course, particularly this semester, has allowed for the creation of interesting parallels between the works shown in the exhibit and the production of contemporary art and this trend in literature.

I heard about an opening at the Image Collection Library (now the Digital Scholarship Center) during one of the Art History Society meetings in the first month of my freshman year. Going into it I had no idea what to expect or what I was about to get myself into. At the beginning, I had no concept of what a digital library was and had never seen a 35mm slide. Fast-forward four years, and now I want to pursue a master's degree in Library Science.

My favorite part of my job is the variety. Before walking in the door each morning I have no idea in what culture or time period the images I will be working with that day belong. This variation and the opportunity to conduct independent research on a daily basis is what propelled me to consider working in an image library or in a museum's collection post-graduation.

Through working at the ICL, I have amassed a vocabulary of highly technical and absurdly specific

facts. I am waiting for the day that a category on Jeopardy is "Classes of Chordophones" or "Names of North Yorkshire Country Houses" because I will sweep those categories! I love working at the Library because I get to play detective and look at art all day. This summer, I will be working in the Photo Archives at the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y. As an upstate New York native, I originally heard about this internship by word-of-mouth and over winter break when discussing internships, the Head of the ICL, Brian Shelburne, suggested I take a closer look.



I applied and thankfully obtained the position. My internship begins just a couple of weeks after graduation and I am excited to start. I will be involved in the process of digitizing a portion of their three million Library items. At the beginning of the summer I will be given a segment of the collection, both prints and three-dimensional artifacts, and I will conduct research on these pieces that I will eventually present formally at the culmination of the internship.

Following this internship, for the duration of the fall academic semester I will be working with children at Walt Disney World in Orlando, FL, creating mini sessions and art activities based varying movie themes, then I will begin the daunting process of applying for graduate school and hopefully pursuing my master's in Library Science.