

# Interning at a Library; My Semester at SCCCBL

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## Introduction

The South Carolina Center for Children's Books and Literacy (SCCCBL) is the state's designated examination site for new children's and YA books, which are available to the public. The staff work to improve literacy rates in South Carolina and beyond through outreach activities like Cocky's Reading Express.

**Over the course of my internship, I was able to...**

- Assist with updating the digital catalog system
- Help print spine labels
- Work on several different assignments for SCCCBL social media posts
- Write book reviews for the SCCCBL Facebook page
- Set up multiple book displays
- Keep the collection organized and shelf books

## Motivation

I came to the University of South Carolina with plans to pursue a degree in Information Science to become a school librarian. During my final year at USC, I wanted an opportunity to intern at a library, so I could get some practical experience in my field.

Thanks to SCCCBL, I had the perfect opportunity to be in my dream work environment. Plus the opportunity to work with Mrs. Valerie Bryd Fort, a former elementary school librarian, was one I hoped would be insightful as I tried to decide what age group I would be comfortable working with in the future.

## Reflection

I was given a wonderful opportunity early in the semester to go through the collection and update titles that were listed in the SCCCBL catalog that were no longer available. This was a great experience seeing how catalogs work and how much work goes into keeping them updated.

I did not realize how many different skills could prove useful in this field. Even as a librarian it doesn't hurt to have some level of skills when it comes to organization, technology troubleshooting, and even the ability to perform the occasional odd job to keep their library neat and clean.

Even in a school setting, more and more librarians are expected to assist students and teachers with using technology and digital resources so having the skills needed to be a teacher in these scenarios is invaluable. From being able to communicate through social media to conveying how to efficiently utilize the library catalog or databases, librarians are no longer just book keepers; they are information keepers and are a valuable resource for their school.

*All the Cocky's Reading Express volunteers who went to Memminger Elementary School in Charleston County over fall break.*



## Significance

This semester has been full of eye-opening experiences that I will take with me as I move forward into my future as a librarian. Although I'm only minoring in education, the classes I have taken for it have really broadened my understanding of the skills it takes to be a well-rounded educator. Learning how to incorporate different activities like music and art is something I feel is still valuable for a librarian, especially when working with younger children.

Between what I've learned in my education classes and what I've personally witnessed through Cocky's Reading Express, children can enjoy learning if you know how to make it a fun and interesting experience for them.

Although my time at SCCCBL was short, I feel like I have gained valuable experience that I will carry with me as I move toward my future goals.

THE SOUTH CAROLINA CENTER FOR

**children's  
books&literacy**

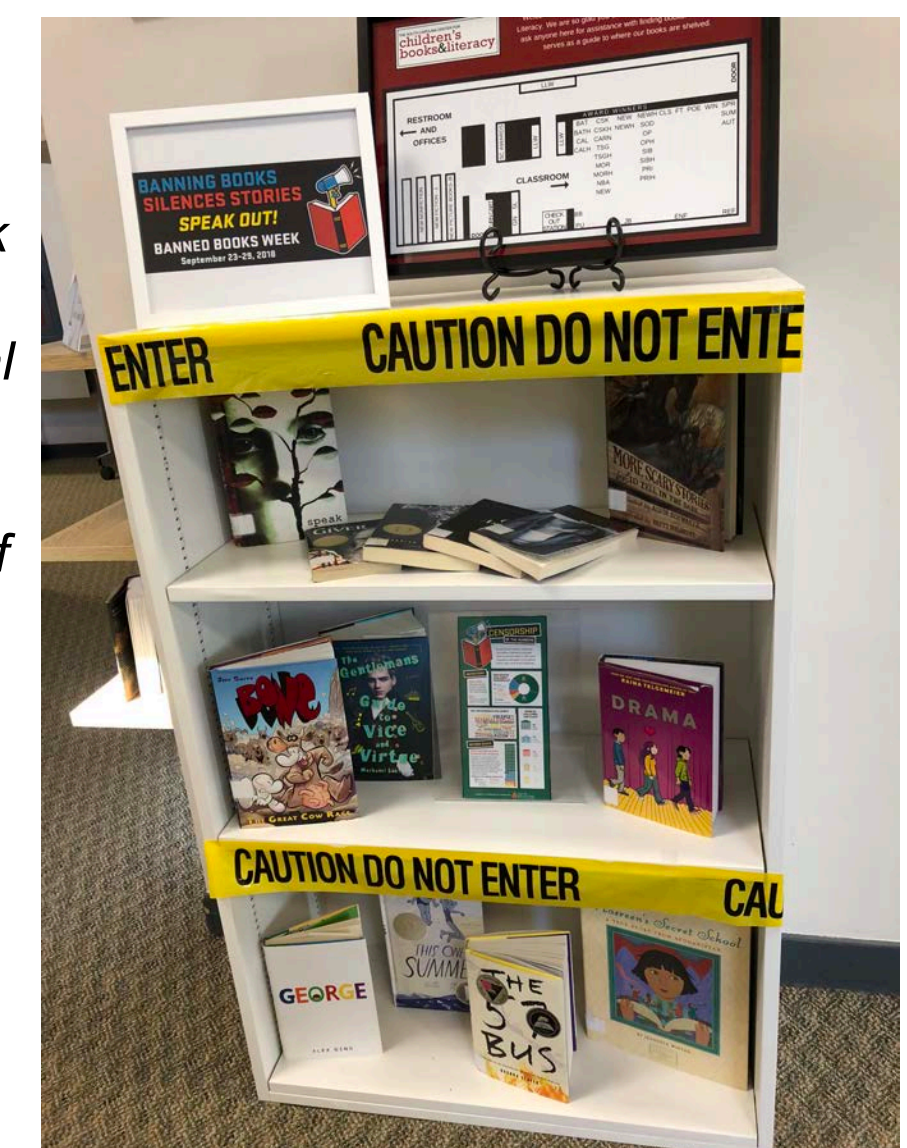


*Just a few of the many books we read to children through Cocky's Reading Express.*

*This is the display I made for the month of October. It was a lot of fun seeing what kind of books SCCCBL has in their collection to make cute holiday book displays. Not only is it something nice for our patrons to look at, but it is also a nice blend of spooky ghost stories and cute picture books about Halloween, which shows what all the library has to offer.*



*This is the book display I made for Banned Books Week (September 23-29). This is one of several displays I put together for SCCCBL, and one of my personal favorites. Being able to set up a book display promoting such a great event was super exciting and fun.*



## Future Plans

I have plans to go with Valerie Bryd Fort to several different schools over the next few weeks to speak with school librarians, including Mueller Road Middle School, Mid-Carolina High School, and Satchel Ford Elementary. These visits are to help me get a better understanding of what to expect from libraries at different grade levels. Since I'm still unsure whether I want to work with elementary or high school age children, this will hopefully be an enlightening experience for me.