

Summer Internship at the New England Historic Genealogical Society's Library
Ian Morrison, Class of 2024

This summer, I interned at the New England Historic Genealogical Society's (NEHGS) library. I took this internship because I am interested in pursuing a career in library science following my graduation from Bowdoin College, and this internship provided me with valuable experience with and knowledge of the inner workings of a library.

The NEHGS is currently remodeling their physical space, and I was tasked with helping the library to prepare for the remodel. This involved moving books to different floors and departments, in order to clear space for the construction of a discovery center on the first floor. Additionally, I helped barcode, pack, and record books that were being sent off site. Finally, I helped prepare the NEHGS' microfilm collection for shipment off site. This entailed packing the microfilm in boxes, recording the necessary information, including reel number, title of the collection, and call number, on the box, and finally entering the information into a spreadsheet so that the library could keep track of what was off site.

I also performed other tasks, including preparing the periodicals for use by library patrons. This involved writing the call number and stamping the periodical which indicated that it belonged to the library. Further, I was tasked with performing archival projects. These varied depending on the collection, but I would typically take the material, such as materials donated by genealogists, and categorize the material by topic. The materials would then be prepared for storage or for shipment off site by the archivists.

My internship at the NEHGS was invaluable for several reasons. Firstly and most importantly, this internship provided me with first-hand experience that has helped me to learn more about the inner workings of a library. Additionally, the personal connections I made at this internship were invaluable: I met many librarians, and I was able to ask them questions about their experiences in graduate school and in their careers, which helped me to expand my understanding about what I can expect in my first few years out of Bowdoin. I do wish that I was able to interact with the patrons of the library directly, which was limited due to the remodel, but this internship was, nonetheless, a great way to spend my summer.

Faculty Mentor: Professor Patrick Rael

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