How to help students navigate the tricky world of work experience.

16th February 2017 at 14:02. It's that time of year when just as I am focussing on the incoming university offers for my seniors, my inbox starts to clog up with adverts from various companies offering gap experiences to those desperate for something to prove their credentials.

In case you don't know the sort, they invariably involve Africa, or India and their brochures are choc-full of smiling, shiny-haired girls in logo t-shirts or earnest looking boys in surgical scrubs observing a procedure, or helping build a church/ well/ school [insert well-meaning project here]. First-year undergraduate students frequently encounter navigation problems in locating known items in the library. This study follows students through the library collection after they have a call number to uncover attributes of building layout that aid navigation and identify fail points. Researchers used ethnographic methodologies of interviewing, observation, and a “think-aloud protocol” to understand the first-year student’s conceptual frame in navigating library collections.

How First-Year Students Navigate the Stacks
Jim Hahn, Lizz Zitron

Abstract

First-year undergraduate students frequently encounter navigation problems in locating items in the library. This study follows students through the library collection after they have a call number to uncover attributes of building layout that aid navigation and identify fail points. Researchers used ethnographic methodologies of interviewing, observation, and a “think-aloud protocol” to understand the first-year student’s conceptual frame in navigating library collections.