RESOURCES FOR SOCIAL WORK IN THE LIBRARY

What is Social Work in a public library setting?
“Library social work” is both “micro and macro—a broad scope” including serving patrons’ needs, building networks of resources and services with community providers, crisis management and de-escalating situations, and technical assistance with library staff.

NASW Webinar
https://naswnys.org/what-is-library-social-work/

https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2022/01/03/1063985757/why-your-local-library-might-be-hiring-a-social-worker

https://www.socialworktoday.com/archive/MA20p20.shtml#:~:text=The%20trend%20of%20library%20social%20service%20need%20where%20patrons%20are.


Articles + Information on Social Work Interns in Public Libraries

Social Work Students and Public Libraries blog (includes resources for micro and macro)
https://swlibraryinterns.com
https://swlibraryinterns.com/assignments/assignments-micro/
https://swlibraryinterns.com/assignments/assignments-macro/

A guide for libraries planning to be a social work practicum site
https://academicworks.cuny.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1741&context=hc_pubs

Whole Person Librarianship
Book, Online Resources + Forum
https://wholepersonlibrarianship.com/

Public Library Association Social Work Task Force
https://connect.ala.org/pla/communities/community-home?communitykey=5c2df085-e960-4608-87e7-fc132b3a43d9&tab=groupdetails

Tasks a Social Work intern may do:

● Conducting a Community Needs Assessment (if necessary)
● Creating/accessing a list of local resources to serve patrons’ needs
● Creating and maintaining relationships with community agencies for information and speakers.
● Assessing the need for, and developing, coordinating, and implementing, relevant programs and services, for example: community forums, information sharing and other sessions, information sessions related to education, health, safety and other vital issues.
● Liaising with community partners.
● Ensuring that programs and services reflect the diversity of the community and a multicultural orientation framework
● Engaging, encouraging, and assisting diverse customers in all areas of the Library in a welcoming, professional, and respectful manner.
● Greeting customers & successfully ascertaining individualized needs and/or requirements for each patron.
● Preparing periodic reports of activities and accomplishments, as needed.

Training, Lectures, etc.

Trauma Informed Services in the Library (more aimed at Librarians and staff but helpful)
https://infopoeple.org/civicrm/event/info?reset=1&id=645

Mental Health First Aid Training
https://www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org/take-a-course/find-a-course/

ACES
Dr. Vincent Felitti: Reflections on the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study