Tracking Damage to Cultural Institutions after Natural Disasters

Project Title	Tracking Damage to Cultural Institutions after Natural Disasters
Project Summary	The Smithsonian Cultural Rescue Initiative is seeking interns who will assist in outreach efforts following a disaster by collecting data on cultural heritage repositories at risk and contacting affected cultural institutions.
Country	United States

Project Description

Following disasters, interns will contact impacted cultural institutions and complete a preliminary assessment of damage and needs in the US or internationally as required. The project focus will depend on current needs including immediate response to disasters that occur during the internship. Interns will consolidate and clean data about cultural heritage repositories coded by SCRI and its collaborating institutions. These data products and assessments will assist SCRI in its response goals and help cultural heritage disaster risk managers and responders effectively address the needs of affected cultural communities. Interns will also have several opportunities to engage with experts from across the Smithsonian, US government agencies, and NGOs in the field, and learn about how their work is contributing to the larger network of disaster response work for cultural institutions.

The Smithsonian Cultural Rescue Initiative (SCRI) works to protect cultural heritage threatened or impacted by disasters and to help U.S. and international communities preserve their identities and history. SCRI projects include international and domestic cultural rescue work as well as disaster training for heritage colleagues, first responders, and military personnel around the world.

Required Skills or Interests

Skill(s)
Coding
Data analysis
Data visualization
GIS expertise
Survey / polling design

Additional Information

Interns will gain: 1) skills in data acquisition and collaborative work; 2) techniques to effectively communicate with people potentially experiencing trauma; 3) experience in the field of disaster studies; 4) career development guidance through interactions with SCRI team members and guest speakers from partner institutions.

This internship requires a commitment of 10 hours/week for the 2020-2021 school year. Interns will be working collaboratively with other VSFS interns, so applicants must be communicative via email and able to join weekly conference calls.

Language Requirements

None