



Position: Middle East Library Intern

Organization: SolarSPELL (Solar Powered Educational Learning Library)

Location: Tempe and/or Remote

Type of internship: Non-paid; approximately 10 hours per week

Application deadline: July 31, 2023; applications will continue to be accepted and reviewed every week until the position is filled.

Start date: Aug 15, 2023

Description:

SolarSPELL is seeking part-time interns to assist in the library development of the new Middle East collection of the SolarSPELL digital library. Interns will continue the work of the 2022-2023 academic year teams who began the development of this new collection, to be implemented initially in Northern Syria. Arabic, Kurdish, and Syriac speakers are highly encouraged to apply.

The Middle East collection will be piloted in 3 secondary schools in NE Syria with our partners in AANES. Interns will have the opportunity to support a library with immediate real-world impact and, beyond the pilot, prepare it for scaling across NE Syria in the coming months.

SolarSPELL is an educational initiative at Arizona State University that combines appropriate technology, relevant content, and local capacity building. We work to build internet-ready skills and improve educational opportunities around the world. Our offline digital library is designed to bring educational content to resource-constrained locations that may lack electricity, Internet connectivity, and/or traditional libraries. The SolarSPELL library emits an offline WiFi hotspot, to which any WiFi capable device (smartphones, tablets, laptops) can connect and browse the expansive content for free.

Users connect to the SolarSPELL offline, digital library over WiFi, using any WiFi-enabled device (smartphones, tablets, laptops) to freely, and safely, surf thousands of resources that are carefully curated and continually improved to meet local information needs.

More information on SolarSPELL can be found here: <http://solarspell.org>

This internship offers an exciting opportunity to contribute to improving the quality of educational information available to students and teachers around the world, whose schools may lack internet connectivity, electricity, and/or traditional libraries. Your contributions will be brought to the field and used by teachers and students, potentially within months of your internship!

Interns will be expected to attend an orientation session and content curation training workshop at the beginning of the semester, and weekly virtual check-ins throughout the semester. Ideal candidates will be detail-oriented and proactive in their content curation tasks.

1. Middle East Library Collections

- a) Research, review, and curate educational content in Arabic
- b) Identify content relevant to potential communities we'll be serving in Northern Syria, Lebanon, and Northern Iraq. Potentially collaborate with implementation partners to identify content needs specific to the communities we will be serving.
- c) Research, review, and curate educational content in Kurdish (Kurmanji dialect)

2. Arabic Offline Training Course (OTC)

- d) Work with a student team, led by SolarSPELL staff and a PhD student, to develop a digital offline training course in Arabic based on existing in-field training models and English-language OTC

Other general tasks might include:

- Feedback on current user interface and library organization/navigation Metadata work, including tagging and organizing of content within the library database
- General research on regions and countries of implementation
- Checking content websites we regularly curate from for any new content

How to apply: If you are interested in applying for this position, please submit a resume and cover letter to Rachel Nova at rnova@asu.edu. All documents should be in PDF format and follow the naming style of [LastName_FirstName_DesiredPosition]