

Jessica Townsend

Graduate Student

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About

Recently graduated from the University of Washington and a U.S. Army veteran with 8 years of service. Experience with training and mentoring countless subordinates over the course of military career. I believe my commitment to service, attention to detail, and desire to advocate for the underserved will aid me well in my pursuit to work within the LIS profession.

I am specifically passionate about preserving stories that shape community identity and access to shared history. I hope to build relationships with local organizations, cultural keepers, and community members to develop collections that reflect lived experiences and amplify underrepresented voices. I believe archives should not only safeguard materials but also nurture dialogue as well as intergenerational learning.

Experience

Digital Theological Library / Internship

SPRING 2026, UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON, SEATTLE

Developed and expanded open-access digital collections, including African American Studies theses and dissertations (40+ titles), improving representation of Black scholarship.

Conducted metadata refinement and authority control, addressing inconsistencies in terminology (e.g., "Black Studies" vs. "African American Studies") to enhance discoverability.

Researched and evaluated international repositories (e.g., Stockholm University, RISS International, University of Cape Coast) to diversify global content and assess integration with WorldCat/OCLC systems.

Built subject-specific collections (100+ titles) from institutional repositories, strengthening access to multidisciplinary scholarly resources.

Identified and resolved metadata and system issues (e.g., missing OCLC records, duplicate entries, search failures due to punctuation), improving resource accessibility.

REU CNT / Research Experience for Undergraduates Center for Neurotechnology

SUMMER 2022, UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON, SEATTLE

Selected for a competitive 10-week research program; conducted independent research while completing intensive training in research ethics, scientific communication, and professional presentation.

Designed and executed a research project examining the effects of transcranial direct current stimulation (tDCS) on memory performance, including data analysis

and interpretation of findings.

Synthesized complex research findings into an accessible and professional academic poster and delivered a formal presentation, demonstrating strong skills in information organization, knowledge dissemination, and audience-centered communication.

SHPEP / Summer Health Professions Education Program

SUMMER 2021, UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON, SEATTLE

Selected for the Summer Health Professions Education Program (SHPEP), an intensive 6-week academic program integrating STEM coursework, experiential learning, and professional development

Conducted critical research on representation in medical educational resources, producing a 2,400-word paper analyzing racial and skin tone bias and its implications for equitable information access and instruction.

Applied principles of information evaluation and social justice to assess gaps in representation within educational materials, highlighting the impact of biased resources on user communities.

United States Army / Signal Support Systems Specialist

JANUARY 2012 - APRIL 2020, TEXAS, AFGHANISTAN, HONDURAS, GERMANY, POLAND

Responsible for overall Unit Communications as well as sustainment and maintenance of over 70 different items of communications equipment valued in excess of \$6,500,000.

Collaborated with Service Members from Romania, Poland, Germany, and United Kingdom in the coordination and ability to maintain communications between different countries' equipment while stationed overseas.

Led a team of 20 individuals, trained and mentored 52 Radio Transmission Operators, as well as 7 Radio Retransmission Teams.

Education

University of Washington / Master of Library and Information Science

SEPTEMBER 2024 - JUNE 2026, SEATTLE

Coursework included:

- Concepts, Services, and Issues for Information Professionals
- Cross-Cultural Approaches to Leadership
- Introduction to Digital Preservation
- Archival & Manuscript Services
- Public Libraries and Advocacy
- Grant Writing
- Black Information Futures
- Black Archives

University of Washington / Bachelor of Arts, Anthropology

SEPTEMBER 2022 - JUNE 2024, SEATTLE

Awards

Olympic College

SEPTEMBER 2020 - JUNE 2022, BREMERTON

Dean's List / University of Washington

AUTUMN 2022 & WINTER / SPRING / SUMMER 2023, SEATTLE

Dean's List / Olympic College

WINTER 2021 & AUTUMN 2021, BREMERTON

Commendation Medal / United States Army

JANUARY 2012 - APRIL 2020, TEXAS, AFGHANISTAN, HONDURAS, GERMANY, POLAND

Instrumental in maintaining secure tactical communications within the unit's Area of Operations in Afghanistan, ensuring minimized communication outages during combat operations. Resolved issues which arose during operations in the Brigade Tactical Operations Center that were critical in maintaining command and control of the battlefield.

Managed, coordinated, and successfully executed over 11 Retransmission Operations with Retransmission Teams providing the Brigade Commander with critical communication assets by expanding the line of sight radio communications capabilities for 3 major exercises and 6 different battalions' training events.
