

For my required internship for my Environmental Science and Policy (ENSP) major, I worked with the Education Department of the National Aquarium in Washington, DC this past summer. To say that it was a life-changing experience would still be an understatement—the Aquarium helped me to discover my passion for the study of fishes and marine invertebrates. A very knowledgeable fellow volunteer shared with me his particular fascination with cephalopods, such as the chambered nautilus and giant Pacific octopus we have on exhibit, as well as information on the elusive giant squid and other varieties. I realized all the more then how little I knew about these intriguing creatures, and I was determined to find out more.

Upon returning to campus, I met with my concentration advisor Dr. Jennifer L. Murrow to discuss possible topics for my culminating research paper in order to earn credit for my summer internship. I chose to write an informational overview of cephalopod biology and ecology, and because my ENSP concentration is in Wildlife Ecology and Management, I particularly wanted to discover how these mollusk species are affected by exploitation and anthropogenic environmental changes, especially ocean acidification resulting from climate change. Throughout the writing process, Dr. Murrow provided invaluable guidance and feedback.

Before diving into the details, I needed to find sources that would provide me with a comprehensive overview of cephalopods and the many topics and issues related to them. Of the libraries on campus, I know McKeldin Library contains materials for the widest variety of subjects, so I acquired most of my references through McKeldin's resources. The University Libraries website's user-friendly system quickly directed me to the online catalog, where I entered key terms such as 'cephalopod' to locate printed books. The catalog quickly found several books, and I recorded the catalog numbers to ask library staff where I could find them.

The helpful and knowledgeable staff at the research desks aided me in my search of the stacks by providing me with a map and guide to locate the floor and shelves I needed. Although computerized searching takes most of the guesswork out of choosing sources, I am grateful that there are still people available to guide students in the right direction. I was delighted to find that McKeldin has many more cephalopod-related books than I had thought; on my first visit for my primary sources, I checked out six books at once! Being able to check out an unlimited number of books greatly facilitated my use of multiple print sources. I was especially pleased to discover a book that had just been published the previous year, making me all the more grateful that the library so promptly acquires the most recent printed publications. By using the stacks, I selected books written by credible scientific authors who support their writing with robust sources.

For more detailed information on specific studies, I took advantage of the University's wide access to online science journal articles. Again from the main library web page, I found the Research Port link and entered key terms. The highly organized and easy-to-use Research Port database makes locating relevant articles from a wide variety of scholarly journals an uncomplicated task, and provides students with helpful tools to narrow down a search to locate precise studies. It is especially helpful to be able to download and save articles to my USB flash drive or to directly print articles via the library's computers and printers. Most of the articles I included in my references were found through the Research Port from databases including EBSCO Host and Elsevier ScienceDirect. The University Libraries website makes it easy to find articles on ecological studies of ocean acidification and other topics from reputable peer-reviewed journals such as *PNAS* and *Proceedings of the Royal Society: Biological Sciences*.

Because of this simplified and convenient access to vast stores of information, I found fascinating references which greatly broadened my knowledge of cephalopods and of the

scientists who study them. I was so inspired by Dr. Roger T. Hanlon's book on cephalopod behavior that I am currently applying for a summer research internship where I might be able to work with Dr. Hanlon as a mentor. My library research experience for this paper has encouraged me all the more to utilize the UMD library system for all of my undergraduate research needs.