

## **Internship with the**

### **World Association of Newspapers and Newspublishers (WAN-IFRA)**

On my first day of work my fellow interns and I went out to lunch together. Over ham and cheese baguettes I asked one of my fellow interns to describe the organization for me to give me a better mental picture of what they did and what working there was like. She told me that the World Association of Newspapers and Newspublishers (WAN-IFRA) was “a public policy group operating in the field of journalism with a human rights mandate”. Being the first day of work I was not entirely sure what she meant. But after two months there I came to fully understand and appreciate the work that they do. The group is a collection of departments with different but complementary mission statements and goals. News Literacy, Press Freedom, as well as their publications and consulting departments all work together to promote independent journalism, a free press, rule of law and news literacy. The Charlie Hebdo terrorist attacks in January of this year are a stark reminder of the attacks, both physical and legal, that are committed against journalists and newspapers everyday. In such a time, the work the WAN-IFRA and similar organizations do is more important now than ever.

For my internship I was working directly for Dr. Aralynn McMane, executive director for youth engagement and news literacy. Most of my work there consisted of assisting with the World Young Reader Prize, a series of awards given to newspapers and newspublishers that do the most to encourage young people to become news consumers and active global citizens. Publishers would submit a

slideshow proposal explaining their projects and Dr. McMane, myself and a host of judges from across the world would analyze and score the reports on effectiveness, presentation, and feasibility. Countries submitted proposals from across the world, from the U.S. to Namibia, Indonesia, India and Denmark. The projects ranged from a mock World Cup for school children organized by a newspaper in Germany to a volunteer educational program in Nigeria to educate refugees displaced by Boko Haram. I was in charge of sending all of the project reports to the judges and then logging and tracking their scores, as well as helping to create the webpage that announced the winners.

In addition to these main tasks I assisted with research and writing on Google Data privacy policy and the so-called 'Right to be Forgotten'. There have been many recent developments in Data privacy regulation and WAN-IFRA has been preparing a report on these news regulations and their impact on the right to access information. Just this summer the Article 29 Data Protection Working Party and the Commission Nationale de L'informatique et des Libertés (CNIL) both issued orders ordering Google to delist information globally that the French government and other European countries had deemed to be "inaccurate, inadequate, irrelevant or excessive".<sup>1</sup> "This right [to be forgotten] can also be exercised even if the

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<sup>1</sup> European Commission "Factsheet on the 'Right to be Forgotten Ruling (C-131/12)" [http://ec.europa.eu/justice/data-protection/files/factsheets/factsheet\\_data\\_protection\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/data-protection/files/factsheets/factsheet_data_protection_en.pdf)

information in question is lawful and accurate.”<sup>2</sup> My research and related work with this material gave me an in-depth and nuanced understanding of a rapidly changing and increasingly important realm of policy and regulation.

My summer in Paris was a wonderful experience that taught me a number of things about myself, journalism and public policy. As an International and Global Studies major at Sewanee I chose this internship because of its position as a public policy organization. Much of my academic work at Sewanee dealt with International affairs and differing cultural and political views on matters of public policy. While freedom of speech is generally considered something that surpasses cultural differences, countries like China, Russia, Iran, Turkey, Venezuela and numerous others limit freedom of speech and journalism in the name of ‘national security’ and ‘cultural normalcy’. My internship opened my eyes to the dire importance of independent and quality journalism. It is easy to take something like the news for granted living in the U.S. or the developed west but there are reporters and journalists being imprisoned or killed to ensure that the citizens of the world are informed and educated on current events and international affairs.

This internship lies at the nexus of public policy and journalism and thus puts me in a position to launch a career in either field. I have applied for jobs as a research assistant in both think tanks and newspapers. While I have not yet found a job, my internship gave me experience in two fields that I wish to work in. My

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<sup>2</sup> LeBel, Francois and Woodland, Mandy. The Right to be Forgotten. Canadian Bar Association.

([http://www.cba.org/CBA/sections\\_privacy/newsletters2014/forgotten.aspx](http://www.cba.org/CBA/sections_privacy/newsletters2014/forgotten.aspx) )

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summer internship improved both my logistical skills with Microsoft excel, sending and tracking emails as well as more qualitative work such as research and analysis on federal regulations on freedom of speech, data protection and access to information. I will take these skills with me forward as I pursue a career in journalism and international affairs, thanks to my internship made possible by a funding grant from Sewanee.