

<b>Placement Provider:</b>	Digital Humanities and University of Manchester Library
<b>Placement Contact:</b>	Dr Louise Davies: Louise.Davies-2@manchester.ac.uk
<b>Location(s) of placement:</b>	University of Manchester Library
<b>Start Date:</b>	16 April 2017 or as soon as possible thereafter
<b>Duration:</b>	Three months
<b>Work hours each week:</b>	1 day per week for 12 weeks
<b>Deadline for Applications:</b>	16 March 2018
<b>Resources available eg library data, computer, desk etc</b>	Library data, desk, Desktop Windows PC
<b>Equality and diversity policy is in place and monitored</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Security clearance required</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Disclosure Barring Service check required</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Description of Placement:</b>	
<p>Digital Humanities Digital Systems Placement, University of Manchester Library</p> <p>Second- or third-year PhD students from any school of the Faculty of Humanities are invited to apply for a short-term (12-week) Digital Humanities placement at the University of Manchester Library, working on digital systems.</p> <p>The placement will be for 12 days over April-June and will be based in the digital systems team of the Library. The work entails considering how researcher behaviour with regards to the discovery and access of electronic resources is changing in the context of digital humanities, how effective the Library's digital systems are in supporting this, how the Library compares with others in this area, and what improvements could be made.</p> <p>These placements offer the opportunity to gain valuable work experience at the intersection of Digital Humanities and Library services, using cutting-edge tools and methodologies as part of a mixed team of experts at the University of Manchester information and data science experts, software developers and academic researchers.</p>	
<b>Expected Tasks and Outcomes :</b>	
<p>The Library makes available thousands of eBooks and millions of eJournal articles through its licence arrangement with publishers. It also provides various digital systems that support the discovery of and enable access to these electronic resources. Some of these systems, such as Library Search, provide a single environment for discovering and accessing resources whereas others, such as Findit@MCR and Library Access, embed functionality into external services such as Google and Web of Science.</p> <p>The 2014 Researcher Experience Study, undertaken for the Library by the Researcher Information Network, looked, amongst other things, at researcher behaviour and requirements around search and identified concerns regarding some Library systems which led to a number of significant changes. Four years on, this placement is an opportunity to consider how researcher behaviour with regards to the discovery and access of electronic resources is changing in the context of digital humanities, how effective the Library's digital systems are in supporting this, how the Library compares with others in this area and what improvements could be made.</p> <p>The placement will run for a total of 12 days over April – June. The placement researcher will be invited to develop an approach and methodology to this work but this could include:</p>	

- Identifying representative discovery and access scenarios for testing
- Identifying exemplar/comparator services
- Identifying services widely in use amongst digital humanities researchers
- Testing the identified scenarios across these different services, including those provided by the Library
- Assessing the results
- Making recommendations on improvements and changes the Library could make to its digital systems and/or to the support it provides around these systems.

#### **Specific Skills/Experience/Training Required for the Placement:**

Formal programming and technical skills are not required, but the successful applicants should be able to evidence some experience of and facility with digital technologies and/or tools.

All training will be provided by UML at the start of the placement.

#### **Training and experience expected to be gained through the placement:**

The placement researcher will work closely with Library systems staff and will gain:

- Knowledge of the systems infrastructure in place supporting discovery and access
- Experience of managing a self-contained project
- An introduction to usability and user experience design
- An introduction to the technical aspects of search including relevance ranking performance
- An opportunity to influence the development of Library digital systems.
- The opportunity to contribute to longer-term capacity-building in Digital Humanities at the University of Manchester, via training of wider PG research community, with the possibility of ongoing involvement in DH activities beyond the end of this placement.

#### **Financial assistance (if any) offered by the organisation:**

These placements are supported by Digital Humanities in the form of a one-off payment of £1000.

#### **Other Comments:**