The Archives Unleashed Cohort Program (2021-2022)

About

Big Data, in the form of born-digital historical sources, is reshaping the humanities and social sciences. The sheer amount of cultural information that is generated and, crucially, preserved every day in electronic form, presents exciting new opportunities for historians, political scientists, sociologists, linguistics, computer scientists, and other scholars. Much of this information is captured within web archives, created by organizations such as the Internet Archive and many other libraries.

The Archives Unleashed project is pleased to announce the launch of the **Cohort Program**, which will facilitate research engagement with web archives. Cohorts will engage in a year-long collaboration, while receiving mentorship and support from the Archives Unleashed Team.

Important Dates

Application Deadline	31 March 2021
Notifications	15 April 2021
Projects Begin	1 July 2021
Projects End	30 June 2022

Program Details

We are looking to select up to **five cohorts** in the July 2021 to June 2022 period who will receive the following support:

- **Participate** in cohort events which will provide an introduction to web archives and an opportunity to workshop draft work in a supportive environment. Due to COVID, the opening event will be held virtually in July 2021. The closing event will be held at the Internet Archive, San Francisco, California, United States, tentatively in May 2022.
- **Bi-monthly mentorship** and support meetings with the Archives Unleashed team.
- **Access to the Archive-It Research Cloud** to generate custom datasets
- **Funding** of $11,500 CAD to support project work. Additional support will be provided for travel to the Internet Archives event.

It is expected that all teams will **prepare a journal-length article submission** as part of this project, which will be developed throughout the term and workshopped at the closing May 2022 event at the Internet Archive.

The Cohorts

Cohorts can be disciplinary or interdisciplinary and should include no more than five individuals. Graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and those in precarious or sessional positions are welcome to apply; however, an administrative lead must be in place at an institution eligible to administer and receive grant funds. This would regularly be a full-time faculty member.

Please know that the University of Waterloo regards diversity as an integral part of academic excellence and is committed to accessibility for persons with disabilities. As such, we encourage applications from women, First Nations, Metis and Inuit peoples, persons with disabilities, members of diverse gender identities, and others who may contribute to the further diversification of ideas.

The Data: With our recently announced integration with Archive-It, data available for use will primarily be institution web archive collections in Archive-it (https://archive-it.org). Additional datasets from the overall Wayback Machine and Internet Archive may also be available. We are happy to work with applicants to address any questions; please connect with Samantha Fritz.

Application Evaluation Criteria

- demonstration of a feasible project that will make an impact on the scholar's field of study;
- the selection of specific web archives to help achieve that project;
- suitability of the project team to learn and carry out planned activities; and
- suitable documentation of a web archival collection that can support this research.

Application Requirements

→ Completed Cohort Program Application (provided below)
→ CV* for each named applicant (max. 2 pages each).

* You can either attach your CV to the email or append to this PDF.

Submit your application with CVs attached
by **11:59 PM Eastern on 31 March 2021**
to Samantha Fritz (samantha.fritz@uwaterloo.ca).

Archives Unleashed Cohort Program Application

Project Details

Project Name	
Project Administrative Lead	
Note: the administrative lead **must** be an individual in place at an institution eligible to administer and receive grant funds; this would regularly be a full-time faculty member.	

Project Collaborators

List <u>all</u> project members *(max of 5 collaborators).*

Name	Institution	Email	CV **Included /Attached** *(max 2 pages per person)*

Project Proposal

Tell us a bit more about your project in the sections on the following pages. Please note the word limit guidelines.

Dataset. Indicate the web archive collection you plan to use to explore. *(max 250 words).*

As a reminder, data available for use will primarily be institution web archive collections in Archive-it (https://archive-it.org); datasets from the overall Wayback Machine and Internet Archive may also be available.

Project Summary. Describe the research problem you aim to approach with web archives. *(max 500 words)*

Timeline. Provide an overview of how you will conduct the research project. *(max 250 words)*