Interactive Digital Media and Web Archiving: Helping Develop the New Media Writing Prize Online Collection

Reference: 2021-CB-NMW

Supervisor (name & role)	Giulia Carla Rossi (Curator, Digital Publications)
Department & Site	Contemporary British Collections, London (St Pancras)
Start date/Timeframe	Anytime from May 2021 onwards, but to be completed by January 2022 (exact start date to be agreed with the supervisor)
Duration	**3 months** (or part-time equivalent) For a part-time placement, the student would be required to spend a minimum of **2 days/week** on the project.
Suitability for remote working	It may be possible to undertake some or all of the placement remotely. To be discussed with the supervisor.

Context for placement
In 2017, the six UK Legal Deposit Libraries set up the ['Emerging Formats Project'](), in order to build their knowledge and capability to collect new media and complex digital publications. As part of this work, the British Library has been collecting web-based interactive fiction using web archiving tools, and has curated collections on the UK Web Archive about [Interactive Narratives]() and a forthcoming collection on the New Media Writing Prize. The [New Media Writing Prize]() is awarded annually to interactive works that use technology in innovative and often quite experimental and exciting ways. The British Library is collecting all shortlisted entries and winners for every year of the prize since its launch in 2010. These publications cross genres, languages and formats (web-based interactive fiction, apps, interactive videos, etc.), blurring the line between video games and literature. They were collected using different web archiving tools: the process itself is quite experimental, and will take several attempts to generate a good quality copy (instance) in our Web Archive. This placement will focus on the New Media Writing Prize collection and help us identify the best instance of a publication, especially when it was captured using multiple archiving tools. Work on emerging formats is itself innovative, and less well-known outside of the institutions who also work in this area. The placement presents a great opportunity to explore the breadth and diversity of born-digital publishing, and also to build your knowledge of collection management challenges in libraries and other collecting institutions.

Expected tasks and outcomes
• The main goal of the placement is to help identify the best instances of web archiving captures created for the New Media Writing Prize online collection, by comparing different captures and creating a spreadsheet listing the best instance for each work. The student will work with the Curator of Digital Publications and with colleagues in the Web Archive team and in the wider Contemporary British Publications team. • A report detailing the process is the expected output for this task, as well as blog posts on progress during the placement, or other forms of presentation. • We would be particularly interested in proposals that include some form of creative response to the collection. This can use data previously collected while building the collection, and the student is free to propose the best way of delivering this (e.g. an interactive work or a data visualisation piece).

Training and development opportunities
All placement students are welcome to access the Library's offer of workshops, talks and training. For further details please refer to the [Application Guidelines on the British Library website](#). In addition, this placement project will offer the following: • An understanding of the British Library's Emerging Formats work, as well as web archiving and Legal Deposit. The student will also receive some basic training in web archiving, with an overview of different web crawling tools and The British Library Annotation and Curation Tool (ACT). This will provide a detailed introduction to digital collections management and preservation. • The opportunity to participate in Contemporary British Publications team meetings. • An opportunity to apply analytical skills to develop a creative piece using British Library collections, and to share it via the British Library channels. • The chance of creating contacts with other institutions within the digital writing community.

Required knowledge and skills
Please ensure that you are aware of the general expectations for all applicants, as detailed in the [Application Guidelines on the British Library website](#). For this specific project, the following additional criteria apply: • Some knowledge of using Excel to perform data analysis would be an advantage, but it is not essential as the creative output is at the student's discretion. • An interest in web archiving would be welcome. • Familiarity with interactive fiction (possibly including experience with writing interactive fiction first hand).

Application deadline: 5pm on Friday **18 December 2020**

Further information on eligibility, conditions and how to apply is available on the British Library website: https://www.bl.uk/news/2020/october/phd-placement-adverts-2020