

# A study of data protection and copyright in the research materials of the Ann Oakley Archive

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<b>Supervisor(s)</b>	Joanna Norledge (Curator, Contemporary Politics and Public Life Archives)
<b>Team and department</b>	Contemporary British Archives, Politics and Public Life
<b>Start date/timeframe</b>	Earliest start: June 2022 Latest end date: March 2023
<b>Duration</b>	<b>3 months</b> (or part-time equivalent)
<b>Part time/Full time</b>	Full time or part time Minimum days/week if undertaken part time: 2.5
<b>Location and working arrangements</b>	Can <b>only</b> be offered on site at London (St Pancras) Please note: There may be some scope to work remotely where appropriate (max. 20% of the time), subject to agreement with the placement supervisor

## Context and nature of placement project

This placement is hosted by the Politics and Public Life Contemporary Archives department, which works with primary source archive and manuscript material from 1949 to present, including digital and audio material.

The Ann Oakley Archive was deposited at the British Library in 2018. Ann Oakley is an important British sociologist writing from a feminist perspective on issues of gender, housework, childbirth and family relations, as well as social policy and sociological methodology. The archive (ca. 110 boxes) includes correspondence, material relating to her research studies and subjects, conferences and lectures, audio tapes of interviews with Ann Oakley and drafts for her novels. Examples of the 14 research studies in the archive include: Housework study (1969-74), History of Ante-natal Care Project (1980-93), Social Support and Pregnancy Outcome (1985-89) and Attitudes to Contraception study (1985-88).

This placement will provide an opportunity for a student to engage with the original, uncatalogued archival material within the Ann Oakley Archive. The placement will focus on exploring the data protection implications of the emerging sociological methodologies pioneered by Ann Oakley. The placement will provide an analysis of data protection in relation to the research studies represented in the archive, supported by British Library staff, using a sampling method. The student would be encouraged to collaborate on developing the sampling approach, with a minimum of three priority research areas to be investigated, and with scope for input based on interest. Time permitting, the student will also conduct research into the copyright status of the research archival material, involving investigations of the original research methodologies.

The student will be supervised by the Curator for Politics and Public Life Archives on a weekly basis and receive an introduction to the Ann Oakley Archive. Additionally, they will attend departmental meetings. They will also benefit from training and support from the Library's Corporate Information Management Unit (CIMU) gaining knowledge and experience of how data protection and copyright applies in relation to contemporary archives.

## Tasks and outcomes

The primary focus of this placement will be to investigate data protection implications in the research papers of Ann Oakley, investigating the original archive materials and the research methodologies and producing a report on this work.

Typical tasks will include:

- Working with the placement supervisor to develop and implement a sampling methodology for the research projects featured in the Ann Oakley archive.
- Consulting samples from the original research archive material containing potential datasets in the Ann Oakley Archive, using a minimum of three projects.
- Conducting archival research in order to investigate and analyse the original research methodologies, with a focus on data protection and copyright.
- Collaborating with British Library archive and data compliance staff, and if necessary consulting with academic stakeholders.
- Using the British Library Data Protection Impact Assessment process to conduct a data sensitivity check on the samples of research material from the archive, with the support of Library staff.

Additional tasks, depending on the student's areas of interest, may include:

- Researching and producing a report on the copyright status of archival research materials in the Ann Oakley Archive.

Main outcomes:

- Completion of Data Protection Impact Assessments and Data Sensitivity checks in the form of a written report or spreadsheet.
- A report/paper on data protection within the research papers of the Ann Oakley Archive.
- A presentation or talk on the research to BL staff.

## Training and development opportunities

PhD placement students are welcome to access a wide range of workshops, talks and training available at the Library. Supervisors will offer advice on which opportunities may be of particular relevance. Depending on availability, these wider training opportunities may include, for example, the Digital Scholarship Training Programme, Cultural Property Training, Research Roundtables, Business & IP Centre workshops and staff talks.

In addition, this particular PhD placement will provide the following:

- Practical experience in archival research and collections management skills.
- An opportunity to develop knowledge and experience of how data protection and copyright applies in relation to contemporary archives.
- Training from British Library specialists on data protection and copyright legislation.
- An opportunity to gain knowledge of contemporary archives.

## Required knowledge and skills

All applicants will be expected to demonstrate the following:

- Ability to communicate effectively verbally and in writing, both internally and externally.
- Working knowledge of Microsoft Office applications and online meeting tools.
- Ability to follow instructions and policies, in particular with regard to Health & Safety and the safe use of collections.
- Ability to work effectively with others while also completing tasks independently.
- Clear reasons for applying to a specific placement and good understanding of the project purpose.

In addition, the following criteria would be desirable for this specific placement project:

- Experience of research using primary archival sources.
- Awareness of the role of data protection in social science research projects.
- Awareness of copyright legislation.
- Research interest in one of the following areas: social sciences, gender and health; use and re-use of qualitative data in social sciences; secondary analysis of qualitative data.

Application deadline: **Friday 25 February 2022 (5 pm)**

Eligibility criteria, funding information and details of how to apply are available on the British Library website: <https://www.bl.uk/research-collaboration/doctoral-research/british-library-phd-placement-scheme>