Role Title: **The National Library of Scotland Fellowship in Digital Research**

Reporting to: **Digital Scholarship Librarian**

Award: **The Fellowship comes with an award of £7,500 (which includes travel expenses), payable in three instalments.**

Applications are now open for The National Library of Scotland Fellowship in Digital Research 2025-26.

Fellowship purpose and requirements
This Fellowship supports an exciting opportunity for a three-month, or part-time equivalent, period of research into the Library's data collections available on the Data Foundry, using data science or other digital research methods. The 2025-26 Fellowship runs from April 2025 to March 2026.

This year, the Fellowship's theme relates to Artificial Intelligence/machine learning: what happens at the intersection of cultural heritage and new technologies? What can we learn from applying AI tools to the collections? What efficiencies are generated, what opportunities are created, what risks are formed? How can access to collections be widened, and how can learning about the collections be shared?

Projects should align with the principles set out in the Library's AI Statement. Preference will be given to projects which can demonstrate broader social impact, and the potential for scalability.

The National Library of Scotland Fellowship in Digital Research does not require you to work within the Library and we welcome applications for remote 'residency'. The Fellow should, however, remain in regular contact with the Library throughout the three-month period and offer updates for staff and external audiences.

The Fellow should visit the Library for at least one week during the three-month period, to present findings, deliver talks for the Library's public and internal events programmes and carry out any other in-person workshops or activities which might engage some of our underrepresented audiences.

An overview of the project, and any subsequent findings, should be made available in plain English on Data Foundry. Any talks must be delivered in the English, Scots or Gaelic languages, and with a broad audience in mind.

The award is open to researchers, from Early Career through to established academics, of any nationality and country. The Fellowship is also open to those with relevant equivalent industry experience with skills in digital research and/or the application of AI tools and methods. We welcome applications from candidates of all backgrounds: the National Library of Scotland recognises the value and importance of diversity and promotes equality in our working practices and culture.

Fellows wishing to be hosted onsite at the Library need to have the right to work in the UK when they apply for the fellowship. The Library does not have UK visa sponsorship status.
International applicants are responsible for ensuring that they meet UK visa requirements and obtaining the correct visa where required.

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Background to the Fellowship
This year's Fellowship is generously supported by Iain Allan, as a tribute to his great-grandfather Hew Morrison, who became the first librarian at the new Free Edinburgh Public Library (now known as the Central Library), for which Andrew Carnegie had given a large sum of money. Hew Morrison subsequently helped Andrew Carnegie to open Carnegie Libraries in Scotland.

The National Library of Scotland Fellowship in Digital Research began as the National Librarian's Research Fellowship in Digital Scholarship began in 2020 and was supported by the National Librarian's Innovation Fund from 2020-2024.

More information about past Fellows and their projects:

2020-21 Dr Giles Bergel: Chapbooks and computer vision
2021-22 Dr Rosa Filgueira: *Frances*: an AI toolbox to explore Data Foundry collections
2022-23 Dr Gustavo Candela: Computational access to digital collections
2023-24 Dr Yann Ryan: Text Re-use and Encyclopaedia Britannica
2024-25 Dr Andrea Kocsis: Connecting web archives with users

The National Library of Scotland's Data Foundry was launched in September 2019 as the Library's data-delivery platform, and part of the Library's Digital Research Service. The Data Foundry provides Library collections in machine-readable form: digitised collections (text and images); metadata collections; map data; and organisational data. The Library updates and adds to these collections on a regular basis.

Person Specification:
Applicants should demonstrate:
- Experience in conducting digital research and applying data science methods;
- Record of relevant research/work in the subject area;
- Potential for their proposed project to scale;
- Potential to generate work which has societal impact, and can be shared with a wide audience;
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills;
- Ability or potential to submit work to the standard required for publication;
- Experience of engaging successfully with general public;
- Ability to act as an ambassador for the National Library of Scotland and the Digital Research Service, demonstrating new uses of Data Foundry collections.

Application
The Fellowship is available for individual applicants or as a secondment opportunity for those employed at a higher education organisation or in an equivalent industry role, if supported by the organisation.

To apply, applications should include:

1. A written statement outlining how you meet the person specification (no more than 2 sides of A4).
2. A project plan for activities you would carry out during this Fellowship (no more than 2 sides of A4), outlining:
   a. Your research project, proposed research methods and the dataset(s) on the Data Foundry that you plan to use;
   b. A workplan showing how you would deliver your project in the given timeframe;
   c. The project's broader impact, and any opportunities for the work to scale;
   d. Publication and/or research output plans;

e. How you would contribute to the Library's internal and external outreach and event programmes, including plans for engaging some of the Library's under-represented audiences;

f. If you would occupy the Fellowship remotely or require space within the Library.

3. A CV including a portfolio of previous projects and recent publications (no more than 5 pages).

4. Name and contact details of two referees, at least one of which should be academic, or a senior work contact.

5. Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form

Applications should be submitted by email to jobs@recruitment.nls.uk by 5pm GMT on Monday, 17 February 2025.

Selection Procedures

Only candidates who demonstrate that they meet the criteria by providing relevant supporting evidence will be invited for interview. Selection will then be based on evidence provided in the written application and the interview about how the individual fits the role description and person specification.

Further information

For further information or an informal discussion, please contact Dr Sarah Ames, Digital Scholarship Librarian: sarah.ames@nls.uk