Enhancing and Promoting Data Services
CLIR/DLF Postdoctoral Fellows in Data Curation

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The Council on Library and Information Resources

In response to the challenges of research data management, the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) and the Digital Library Federation (DLF) partner with academic institutions in the U.S. and Canada to host Data Curation Fellows in the Sciences and Social Sciences, Medieval Studies, and Early Modern Studies.

The CLIR/DLF Postdoctoral Fellowships in Data Curation give recent Ph.D.s opportunities to help develop data management strategies, policies, tools, and services that relate to the fellows’ own disciplines.

Colleen Strawhacker (2013-2015)
National Snow and Ice Data Center (NSIDC), Ph.D. Anthropology

Colleen’s fellowship will increase the NSIDC’s capacity to manage social science data. While NSIDC has developed robust data management systems for data from the physical sciences, social science data has proven problematic due to its unique complexities. Colleen will work on developing methodologies to preserve the context of social science data and to maintain the privacy of research subjects.

Natsuko Nichols (2012-2014)
University of Michigan, Ph.D. Political Science

Working in parallel with a fellow in the sciences, Natsuko is conducting a campus-wide assessment of research needs in the social sciences. She has been instrumental in helping the UM Library move forward with data-related initiatives by analyzing research data services of peer institutions and by serving on library committees and teams involved in data management.

Alexandra Bolintineanu (2013-2015)
University of Toronto, Ph.D. Medieval Studies

Using medieval studies as a pilot discipline, Alexandra will assess the current infrastructure, resources, and emerging best practices for the wider digital humanities community at the University of Toronto. She has surveyed current medieval studies projects and is now collecting data on methodologies, data needs, and software development.

As part of CLIR’s Postdoctoral Fellowship Program, Fellows in Data Curation explore current topics related to research data management by participating in an intensive introductory seminar, followed by monthly online discussion sessions. The needs and interests of the fellows determine the content of this constantly evolving curriculum. Exposure to varying disciplinary and institutional contexts challenges them to envision networked information resources and services that support interdisciplinary research and work across institutions. Fellows attend an annual program meeting at which they reconvene, report on their progress, and engage in discussions of more complex issues.

Information about 2015 fellowship opportunities will be available on CLIR’s website beginning September 2014. Applications to host Postdoctoral Fellows in Data Curation for the Sciences and Social Sciences will be due in early October. Applications from Ph.D. candidates will be due in late December.

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