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Call: applications for IT developer support within web archive studies

Would you like to have your own IT developer to support you when studying the archived web?

This may be possible now. NetLab advertises a number of full time IT developer support weeks to Danish researchers studying phenomena on the web — both the live web that you want to archive, and the web that is already in an existing web archive. NetLab is part of the national Danish research infrastructure DIGHUMLAB, and it supports researchers who want to study the archived web, either as something to be archived by the researcher or as it is found in an existing web archive such as the national Danish web archive Netarkivet (archives the entire Danish web, established 2005) or the US based Internet Archive.

The archived web and the need for IT support

For more than two decades the societal, cultural and political importance of the online and the archived web has increased. However, scholars within the Humanities have not yet unlocked the full potential of this treasure trove of sources. One of the reasons for this lack of use is the challenges related to the opening of the 'black box' of the archived web. The most widespread access form is through the Wayback Machine where the archived web is browsed much like as when it was online, but a wide range of other access forms are possible, from hyperlink analyses to studies of images, language, etc., including Big Data studies of large portions of the web. But the archiving of the web as well as more complex analyses very often demand a certain level of computer skills that most Humanities scholars do not have.

To help researchers study the archived web, NetLab advertises full time support by an IT developer with more than five years of experience in supporting web archiving studies.

What?

This call opens up for applying for two types of IT developer support:

- **project support**, that is support with either an ongoing research project or a new project; project support is between 3 and 8 weeks full time support,
- **feasibility support**, that is help to clarify the feasibility of a web archive based research project in the making; feasibility support is 5 or 10 days.

Applications may focus either on the web to be archived by the researcher or as it is found in an existing web archive.

Successful applicants will plan the detailed allocation of the weeks of support in collaboration with NetLab. The allocated support time is calculated as full weeks. Based on previous experience projects based on the extracting of material from the national Danish web archive Netarkivet should expect the identification and extraction of the web material to take 1-2 weeks. To facilitate this process a data sprint will be planned in the first week, with relevant participants from Netarkivet and NetLab (e.g. curator, IT-developer, researcher).

It is mandatory that after the project period all successful projects report the project in an oral presentation at NetLab's open forum NetLab Forum and draft a brief evaluation report.

Who?

Applications are accepted from all researchers and research teams within the Humanities, no matter the discipline and the methodological approach. Researchers must be from one of the partners in the DIGHUMLAB consortium; that is Aalborg University, Aarhus University, the University of Copenhagen, the University of Southern Denmark, and The Royal Library.

How to apply?

Download the relevant application form from the link below, and email the completed form to DIGHUMLAB (bcd@cc.au.dk). Applications must be written in English.

Link to application forms:

[Project application form](#)

[Feasibility application form](#)

Deadline for applications and project start

Applications are due no later than 10 April 2019, 12:00. Successful applicants will be informed of their award by 10 May 2019.

Successful research projects can be allocated IT support within the time period September-December 2019.

The DeIC National Cultural Heritage Cluster at the Royal Library

The DeIC National Cultural Heritage Cluster at the Royal Library is a high-performance super-computer that can be used to perform Big Data analyses of archived web material. If you plan to

study large amounts of data it may be relevant to use the DeIC National Cultural Heritage Cluster at the Royal Library. Please note in the application form if access to the Cultural Heritage Cluster is relevant for your project. Read more at: <https://www.deic.dk/da/kulturarvscluster>.

Evaluation of applications

All applications will be evaluated by a DIGHUMLAB evaluation panel. Applications may be sent in external international review, to help support the evaluation panel.

The evaluation panel will be looking for applications for research projects:

- where the need for IT developer support is well justified and documented,
- where the research project's way of including the archived web is feasible, while taking into account the technical complexity, collection methods, access to the collection(s), legal aspects, and similar.

The Head of NetLab as well as staff from the Cultural Heritage Cluster may be consulted to evaluate a project's feasibility, if necessary.

Possible preparation for successful applicants

NetLab offers workshops and online courses for researchers interested in studying the archived web (read more on netlab.dk). To gain the necessary level of understanding successful applicants may want to attend one of these activities before starting the IT developer support period. However, participation in a workshop or an online course is not mandatory. A workshop is planned for 15 August 2019.

2020 Spring

Within the limits of the allocated resources NetLab intends to make a call similar to the above for the Spring of 2020.

Need some inspiration?

If you want to draw inspiration from previous projects please have a look at the list of [projects that were supported in 2018 and 2019](#).

Application support

Applicants who need further information and/or support when drafting an application are welcome to contact the Head of NetLab, Niels Brügger, nb@cc.au.dk.