

Propose a vacation student project for Summer 2019

Deadline for making your proposal(s): 17:00 Friday 22 March 2019. This is a hard deadline.

This form is for one project proposal, so to propose multiple projects please submit a separate form for each project. Any queries, do ask - Toby.

Project supervisor email *

Jim.Miles@manchester.ac.uk

Title of the project *

School History Web Tools

Source of funding *

- School funding requested
- You have your own funding (e.g. research grant)

Objective of the project *

The School has a large number of objects, images and documents that relate to the history of the School. These are uncatalogued and in many cases we have no record of what they are or what they mean but there are people outside the School who might know, and could provide useful information and context. The objective is to improve the cataloguing and complete a system designed to capture information about the items that we have from the people who know.

Number of students requested (justify if > 1) *

1

Start date, end date, total duration (weeks) *

Start and end dates to be discussed according to availability, no more than 8 weeks

The benefit to the School *

The School's knowledge and understanding of its collection will improve.

The benefit to the student *

The student will gain experience of building systems with databases and UI, and will learn a small amount about the management of historical artefacts.

Skills needed by the student. *

Self-learning in all aspects of web applications including databases using unfamiliar systems/tools. Ability to construct highly usable systems for members of the public who have a wide range of IT skills. Ability and willingness to produce correct and complete documentation. Interest in the history of the school and historical objects/documents/images.

Details of the work that the student would do *

The project will not be allocated to any student who has not discussed it in advance with Jim Miles.

There is an existing wiki that was built and partially populated by a previous summer student project, the first task will be to review that and determine its robustness and its usability, and what developments are required to make it usable by the public. The data collected in it will eventually need to be imported into the University collections management system and the interface to that will need to be investigated to find ways to achieve the transfer. There will be a need to further build the contents of the database/catalogue which would involve photographing/scanning objects and/or data entry. There is flexibility between these tasks and a plan will be constructed during the first week following a review of existing code. All code/databases/systems will be built using tools/languages that are long-term sustainable within the School.

Infrastructure requirements and any required staff support other than the project supervisor *

Some server space (probably not substantial), oversight from Chris Page who will ensure that only maintainable systems are constructed. I have discussed this with Chris.

Supervision arrangements throughout the duration of the project (named staff and dates covering the entire duration) *

Jim Miles will supervise throughout, dates and duration of the project to be agreed with the student before the start.

Location of the project work (building/room) NB projects must be on-campus *

Kilburn Building, 1.8 for development work, potentially some work in store rooms 2.51/2.53

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