Digital Humanities Postdoctoral Fellowship

The Smithsonian Institution Chief Data and AI Office, housed within the Office of Digital and Innovation (ODI) in Washington, DC, is **seeking a postdoctoral fellow to conduct independent research in digital humanities.** This scholar will have the opportunity to work in collaboration with a growing community of digitally minded humanities scholars and museum professionals across the Smithsonian.

The Chief Data and AI Office was recently formed in response to the dramatic increase in all forms of digital data across the Smithsonian (21 museums, 8 research centers, and a zoo). In our work with research scholars, we build collaborations across Smithsonian units, as well as universities and other institutions. Members of our group work on a variety of data-intensive research topics, including Artificial Intelligence (AI) applications for digitized museum collections, biodiversity genomics, computer vision, and others.

Searching Smithsonian's Vast Digital Collections

We are seeking a postdoctoral fellow to lead a project to improve the discoverability of the digitized collections with the use of AI tools. We are particularly interested in developing knowledge graphs to better understand the interconnections between Smithsonian objects, datasets, and publications by applying deep learning techniques to classify unknown document types, leveraging natural language processing techniques to delve into digital document contents, with all project components leading to interactive visualizations of results. The scope, however, can be molded to fit the fellow's interests.

Applicant Requirements:

Given the interdisciplinary nature of these projects, applicants should possess a PhD with a relevant interdisciplinary focus. This may include either social sciences and humanities disciplines (e.g., history, sociology) with a research focus in digital data, or technical disciplines (e.g., computer science, NLP) with a research focus on historical document analysis. Applicants should demonstrate a strong publication record and the ability to conduct independent research. Strong written and communication skills are also required. Applicants should be proficient in Python, familiar with machine learning frameworks such as PyTorch or TensorFlow, and have experience with a High-performance Computing Cluster. The fellow will be advised by the Dr. Alex White, Research Data Scientist in the Chief Data and AI Office, and co-advised by humanities scholars depending on the research focus.

Appointment is initially for one year, with the possibility for renewal. Stipend is $70,000 per year, with an additional $5,000 health insurance offset. Please contact Alex White at WhiteAE@si.edu with questions. To apply, submit a curriculum vitae, a 1-page statement of research interests, and contact details for 2 academic references to SI-DataScience@si.edu by October 17, 2025.