

Pratt School of Information

New York Public Library Digital Archives & Preservation Fellowship

2023-2024

Fellowship information

The purpose of the Digital Archives and Preservation Fellowship is to provide support for a MSLIS student with the Advanced Certificate in Archives to gain hands-on experience with the lifecycle of born-digital collections, including disk imaging, born-digital audio/video, supporting archival processing, and ingest into NYPL's repository. The Fellow may gain or grow technical experience with tools such as Forensic Toolkit, GitHub, Preservica, Python, and various command-line tools, such as BagIt and Siegfried.

Note fellowship tasks do not include digitization or archival processing.

Hands-on Experience

Fellowship time is split between two teams.

- NYPL Digital Archives Team
 - Read and contribute to the [NYPL digital archives documentation](#)
 - Inventory media from an archival collection
 - Transfer files from obsolete digital carrier formats using write blockers and forensic workstations
- NYPL Digital Repository Team
 - Read and contribute to the [NYPL digital preservation documentation](#)
 - Prepare materials for ingest into NYPL's Preservica instance
 - Survey unmanaged collections to prepare for ingest

Research Activities

Fellows are encouraged to spend 50% of their time on a project of their choosing based on the exposure to activities within the program. NYPL staff will help guide the development of this project. Examples include:

- Testing and documenting the usage of obsolete media readers like DDS-2 tape drives
- Creating file format signatures and access formats for unidentified formats
- Improving processes through the development of documentation and/or scripts
- Researching the accessibility requirements of access provided via emulation
- Other projects as discussed

All projects are conducted from the Library Services Center in Long Island City, Queens. The fellowship recipient will be selected by New York Public Library Special Collections staff following an initial review by SI staff. Official notification will be made by late April 2023.

The fellowship recipient will commit to working on-site for 8 hours/week (120 hours/semester for the fall 2023 and spring 2024 semesters; 30 weeks total from September 2023–May 2024). This fellowship includes a scholarship in the amount of \$7,450 that will be divided equally between the fall 2023 and spring 2024 semesters. Fellows must register for INFO 665 Projects in Digital Archives in fall 2023. For spring 2024, the fellow may take either INFO 698 Practicum/Seminar or present their fellowship project at #infoshow2024 at the end of the semester. If the fellowship recipient has previously taken INFO 665 Projects in Digital Archives, this requirement can be substituted with another archives course subject to the approval of the Dean of the School of Information. The successful applicant must take at least 6 credits in both the fall 2023 and spring 2024 semesters.

Please note that continuing the fellowship through spring 2024 is contingent upon review of the fall 2023 semester by New York Public Library Special Collections staff.

Please contact the SI Office with questions about the fellowship and/or application process.

Eligibility

To be eligible for consideration, an applicant must have:

- started the MSLIS program no later than spring 2023
- an expected graduation date of June 1, 2024 or later
- taken and completed the following courses prior to fall 2023:
 - INFO 625 Management of Archives & Special Collections
 - INFO 654 Information Technologies

Application submission & deadline

To apply, send the following as one .pdf file to qlai@pratt.edu -

- Completed Applicant Information Sheet (page 3)
- Resume/CV
- A list detailing your software/technology proficiency
- Statement of purpose (1-2 pages explaining why you're applying for the fellowship and what you hope to gain from the experience, etc.)

The deadline is 5pm EST, Monday, April 3, 2023.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name:

Pratt ID#:

E-mail:

Telephone:

STATEMENT OF ACCURACY

I hereby affirm that all the above stated information provided by me is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Applicant signature

Date