JOB DESCRIPTION
Research Associate
Vacancy Ref: A2287

Job Title: Research Associate on AHRC Project: "Creating a Chronotopic Ground for the Mapping of Literary Texts:"	Grade: 6P

Department/College:	English Literature and Creative Writing

Directly responsible to:	Sally Bushell (PI)

Supervisory responsibility for: N.A.

Other contacts
Internal:
James O Butler (RA)
Rebecca Hutcheon (RA)

External:
CIs on the project at five other universities in the UK
The British Library digital curation team
The Wordsworth Trust
Other possible external stakeholders: the NLS; Clare Cottage; Coleridge Cottage

Major Duties:

This post (technical RA with responsibility for spatial and visual forms of digital representation) is funded by the AHRC as part of a major three-year research project into literary mapping (£914,000). The team for the project consists of Sally Bushell as PI; James O Butler as lead RA with responsibility for the corpus linguistics methods, coding schema, design and mark-up; Rebecca Hutcheon as literary RA. This post is a full-time appointment over two years from September 2018-September 2020. The main aims of the project are to develop new models for displaying literary worlds and settings through generating innovative maps from descriptive-place related data taken directly from texts.

As the technical RA your duties will be spread across three main areas:

1. Use of 3D Visualisations (gaming platforms) and their adaptation to literary texts

You need to have proven ability to use gaming platforms in innovative ways for the Humanities (ideally but not essentially for English Literary texts). The project is open to the use of any appropriate gaming engines. You need to be familiar with a range of ways, conventional and experimental, of combining text and image in the digital medium. This is the most vital skill that you bring to the team and you will be asked to show this capability at interview.

2. Database design and conversion of XML mark-up into innovative map models

You need a high level of expertise in working with corpus linguistic methods (e.g. NER and NEP) the ability to design efficient database structures for the corpus entries metadata; experience working with story/ deep maps and the skills to create a range of spatial-relational visualisations from the tagged dataset. You will work closely with James Butler on these aspects.

3. Website design and the building of accessible interfaces for displaying the corpus data

The project has a strong impact agenda so that it is essential that we are able to communicate and share what we create effectively. You will have responsibility for creating the interface that we use to communicate our ideas and display data derived from the corpus.

You will also be required to work closely with the other RAs in relation to preparing and organizing internal events and conferences and attending external ones at which to present your research to an international audience as part of the team. Good communication skills are essential.

Requirements for the post

- You must hold a PhD in a field relevant to the technical needs of the project. You should also have proven capability in the field of Digital / Spatial Humanities even if your original degree is not in this area. This need not be in the field of literary mapping but should be cognate with it.

- You must have experience of working with XML, NER and GIS as well as an ability to undertake coding using the TEI and to use tabular data to generate GIS forms in innovative ways that combine text and image.

- You must have experience of working with a range of gaming platforms and adapting them to higher level academic purposes. This need not be in the field of literary studies (although this will be an advantage).

- You must have the ability to conduct research of the highest quality, undertake a literature review, collect and analyse data where appropriate and produce original and innovative research in the field of literary mapping, making a significant contribution to outputs from the project.

- You must have the ability to produce interdisciplinary work that is accepted by major journals in the fields of literature, linguistics, gaming studies, geography or cartography.

- You must have strong communication and interpersonal skills and an ability to work well with stakeholders outside the university.

- You must have an ability to organise symposia and conferences in house and present work at national and international conferences.

- You should be able and willing to assist in administrative tasks relating to the project as needed.

- To undertake other duties relating to the project as needed and specified by the PI.