

## Job Details

<b>Position:</b>	Research Assistant
<b>School/Department:</b>	School of English
<b>Reference:</b>	16/104768
<b>Closing Date:</b>	Friday 5 August 2016
<b>Salary:</b>	£26,537 - £33,574 per annum (including contribution points)
<b>Anticipated Interview Date:</b>	Friday 19 August 2016
<b>Duration:</b>	One year

### JOB PURPOSE:

This is a one-year Research Associate position (0.5 FTE), funded by the Modern Humanities Research Association (MHRA), on the project: 'David Livingstone's Missionary Travels: A Digital Edition'. The project aims to produce a comprehensive, online scholarly edition of one of the most significant travel narratives of the nineteenth century. The Research Associate will be an active member of the project team, engaging in archival and textual research and contributing to the transcription and critical editing of primary documents. The post is based at the School of English in Queen's University Belfast and will begin on 1st October 2016.

### MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Contribute to the critical editing and encoding of manuscript and print material (in XML, using TEI methodology).
2. Engage in archival and textual research (on Livingstone's field notes, journals, correspondence and publications) as guided by the project directors, and contribute to the development of scholarly annotations.
3. Engage in independent research, writing critical essays on literary and historical topics of the RA's choosing (to be published by Livingstone Online).
4. Participate in developing the edition interface using Drupal.
5. Collaborate on knowledge transfer by curating project documentation and writing a project history.
6. Participate in outreach activities by representing the project at an international conference and by dissemination on social media (contributions to Livingstone Online blog).
7. Provide regular progress reports to the project directors.
8. Carry out routine administrative duties as requested.
9. Keep abreast of developments in the field by reading academic publications and by attending seminars and workshops.
10. Provide a small amount of undergraduate or postgraduate teaching (this is optional).

### Planning and Organising:

1. Plan own day-to-day activity within the framework of the agreed research programme.
2. Contribute to organising project events.
3. Arrange research meetings.

### Resource Management Responsibilities:

1. Provide guidance as required to support staff and any students who may be assisting with research.

### Internal and External Relationships:

1. Liaise with project directors in Queen's University Belfast and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln as well as other Livingstone Online staff on routine matters.
2. Liaise with project partners (various libraries and archives).

### ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. Degree in English Literature, History or a cognate discipline.

2. 1 year's research experience in a relevant field (for example: colonial literature, imperial history, nineteenth century travel writing).
3. Ability to contribute to research management and administrative processes.
4. Skills in textual criticism and/or historical research.
5. Ability to interact with research colleagues and support staff.
6. Ability to analyse and communicate effectively.
7. Demonstrable intellectual ability.
8. Ability to work in a team.

**DESIRABLE CRITERIA:**

1. PhD in English Literature, History or a cognate discipline.
2. Publications in a relevant field.
3. Experience of undergraduate or postgraduate teaching, particularly in related areas (colonial literature, travel writing, imperial history, digital humanities).
4. Administrative experience (organising events or workshops, and planning meetings).
5. Experience of transcription in XML and projects in the digital humanities.
6. Knowledge of editorial theories and methodologies.
7. Experience of presenting research (conferences or invited papers).

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

During three long-term visits, the missionary and explorer David Livingstone (1813–73) travelled across vast regions of central and southern Africa. As a result, his writings vividly illuminate British colonialism, African history, and the cultural encounter between Europe and Africa. Focussing on Livingstone's first major publication, *Missionary Travels and Researches in South Africa* (1857), this project will result in a critically mediated digital edition that will engage scholars of Victorian exploration, nineteenth-century publishing, British imperial history and African cultural studies. The edition is an associate project of Livingstone Online (see <http://www.livingstoneonline.org> and <https://livingstoneonline.wordpress.com>), a digital initiative supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). The post is funded by a grant from the Modern Humanities Research Association (<http://www.mhra.org.uk/>) which exists to promote high quality research in English and the Modern Languages. An MHRA Research Associateship is designed to give an early career scholar the opportunity to work with major experts in their field on a significant research project.

The Research Associateship on 'David Livingstone's *Missionary Travels*: A Digital Edition' presents the opportunity to participate in an international collaborative project in the digital humanities. The RA will engage in archival and textual research, transcription and encoding of primary documents, and will publish independent essays on selected topics. Training in XML and Drupal will be available through Livingstone Online. The RA will also be able to take advantage of workshops and Continuing Professional Development sessions at Queen's University Belfast, and will be mentored by the project directors (Dr Justin Livingstone at Queen's University Belfast and Dr Adrian Wisnicki at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln).

Please note that the School of English will merge with the School of Modern Languages and the School of Creative Arts on 1 August 2016. The new School name will be the School of Arts, English and Languages.