

## Unlocking our Digital Past Workshop

19<sup>th</sup> July 2021, 14:00 – 17:30

This online workshop is the first of two workshops organized as part of the “Unlocking our Digital Past” project. The project aims to bring together policy makers, academics and archive professionals to consider how AI can help improve the preservation, access to and usability of born-digital archives. In this workshop, the focus will be on the implications of AI for access and research using digital archives.

More information on the project can be found at [www.unlockingourdigitalpast.com](http://www.unlockingourdigitalpast.com).

Feel free to tweet throughout the workshop. We will be using the hashtag #OurDigitalPast

The programme is as follows:

14:00 An introduction to the Unlocking our Digital Past project by the project team

14:15 **Session 1**

Using AI to support the management of digital public records

10-minutes Jenny Bunn, Head of Archives Research, The National Archives  
presentations from: Jason R. Baron, Professor of Practice, University of Maryland

14:35 **Roundtable discussions**

Participants will be split into breakout rooms to discuss two questions and be asked to provide summaries to the whole group afterwards. The questions we are interested in exploring are as follows:

*How do we balance the opportunities with the challenges of implementing AI to manage digital archives?*

*AI is still at an experimental stage in archives, libraries and museums. How do we begin to scale up AI experiments in this sector?*

15:35 15-minute comfort break

15:50 **Session 2**

Accessing digital public records and the potential uses of AI

10-minute presentations from: Dr Adam Nix, Lecturer in Responsible Business, University of Birmingham  
Dr Annalina Caputo, Assistant Professor in the School of Computing, Dublin City University  
Dr Graham McDonald, Lecturer in Information Retrieval, University of Glasgow

16:20 **Roundtable discussions**

Participants will be split into breakout rooms to discuss two questions and be asked to provide summaries to the whole group afterwards. The questions we are interested in exploring are as follows:

*Do the researchers of the future need different skillsets to be able to work with digital archives?*

*What can the stewards of digital public records do to reduce barriers to access for digital archives?*

17:20 Closing remarks and next steps by the project team

17:30 End of workshop

If you have any questions, please contact Arran Rees on [a.j.rees@lboro.ac.uk](mailto:a.j.rees@lboro.ac.uk) or Dr Lise Jaillant on [l.jaillant@lboro.ac.uk](mailto:l.jaillant@lboro.ac.uk)