Research on digitised archival material from Latin America and the Caribbean

This fellowship opportunity is within the Eccles Centre for American Studies and Americas and Australasian Collections department working on material from Latin America and the Caribbean that has been digitised through Endangered Archives Programme (EAP). The Americas and Australasian Collections department curates material from these areas published since 1850 and Eccles Centre exists to promote the study of North America (including the Greater Caribbean Region) through the various collections the Library holds that relate to the region.

The Endangered Archives Programme has supported projects throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. Although the material is available online for scholarly research, the Eccles Centre and EAP would like to have an in-depth overview of the types of material digitised from this region and to see whether there are gaps that could be targeted through a considered approach. The fellow will research common themes, timelines of material etc. in order to facilitate access to this material and encourage further growth in this area of the EAP programme.

Key Responsibilities

- Work with British Library curators, Eccles Centre and EAP staff to develop an in-depth understanding of the content digitised as part of EAP funding.
- Develop targeted plans to promote digitised material with relevant regional institutions.
- Support the delivery of outreach activities to those communities, which could include a conference in the target region at the end or immediately after the Fellowship supported by the Eccles Centre for American Studies.
- Publicise EAP as a free-to-access resource of digital content for scholarly research, and as a funder of archival digitisation and preservation.
- Use your own cultural, social and language skills through the above and other activities during the fellowship to contribute to the successful delivery of the Endangered Archives Programme.
- Promote the fellowships and awards offered by the Eccles Centre for American Studies.

Deliverables

- To provide an in-depth report on the material digitised through EAP relating to Latin America and/or Caribbean collections. A data visualisation component may be required and training in this would be provided. The output should be of publishable quality.
- Organise activities that will be included in the Eccles Centre’s lively and diverse programme of events.
- Identify and liaise with a local partner institution in the target region to manage an Eccles funded conference. The theme of the conference will be based on EAP content and will also include an element of training on applying to EAP for funding.
- A stakeholder event at the BL that promotes the value of the Chevening-BL Fellowship.
- Other engagement and outreach work through the EAP, Americas and Chevening blogs and social media platforms.

Candidate requirements

- Degree in a relevant subject preferably in social or cultural history
- Knowledge of either Spanish or Portuguese.
- Excellent written and spoken English
- Familiarity with archival material or library collections
- Interest in digitisation and/or heritage preservation
- Good understanding of Higher Education institutions in target region
- Experience of public speaking, networking and partnership building
- Strong computer skills including Microsoft Office suite
Individuals must be residents in their home country at the time of making their application. Applicants from the following countries will be eligible: Argentina, Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Mexico, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti, and Jamaica.