Computational Archival Science (CAS) Projects:

1. Legacy of Slavery

In partnership with the Maryland State Archives, the project explores using digitized records from the Legacy of Slavery collections (Manumissions, Certificates of Freedom, Runaway Slave ads, Census data, etc.) in order to explore visualization, linking, and interpretation of historical records.

Public event:
Students participating in this project will be invited to a 2-day Data Challenge at the Maryland State Archives in Annapolis, MD. The event will take place on Monday and Tuesday, Oct. 28 / 29, 2019. The event will mirror a June datathon held at The National Archives (TNA) in Kew, UK (https://dcicblog.umd.edu/cas/2019/07/16/uk-us-computational-archival-science-datathon-in-london/). Students participating in this event will be participating in two ongoing funded research projects, and interacting with the research partners:


2. Japanese American WWII Camps

In partnership with Densho.org1, the project explores extraction and visualizing techniques to contextualize WWII camp records that have not been made available to the public before. So this is making history and experimenting with innovative digital techniques.

Public event:
Students participating in this project will get to showcase their work on Wednesday, Oct. 30 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on campus at a public event called “Resistance at Tule Lake: A Conversation with the Filmmaker and iSchool Digital Curators” (https://ischool.umd.edu/events-type/resistance-tule-lake-conversation-filmmaker-and-ischool-digital-curators).

Rules of Engagement:

- After the Wed. Aug. 21 Orientation, students will have until Fri., Aug. 23 to fill out a survey with project preference(s), including a short bio, and a statement of interest. This is open to all MLIS students. Response survey link: https://tinyurl.com/y46j9yn
- There is limited seating (we will try to form up to 3 or 4 teams of 4 to 5 students each for each project). You will be notified by Monday, Aug. 26 and we will try to set up a weekly meeting time after that.
- Student commitment is to meet once a week for 8 consecutive weeks leading up to the public event, to work in teams under the guidance of Richard Marciano (DCIC Director: see http://dcic.umd.edu), to be able to attend the public event, and to commit to investing up to 4 or 5 hours per week during that period.

Benefits:

- Engagement in research projects and membership in the DCIC Center.
- Opportunity to develop innovative digital skills on real-world projects.
- Opportunity to add to your portfolio, and resume and network.
- Opportunity to be mentored by national and international professionals.
- Depending on goals and progress, opportunity to co-write a research paper.

1. Legacy of Slavery

Goals and Scope
The Legacy of Slavery in Maryland is a major initiative of the Maryland State Archives. The program seeks to preserve and promote the vast universe of experiences that have shaped the lives of Maryland’s African American population. From the day that Mathias de Sousa and Francisco landed in St. Mary’s county aboard the Ark and the Dove in 1634, Black Marylanders have made significant contributions to both the state and nation in the political, economic, agricultural, legal, and domestic arenas. Despite what often seemed insurmountable odds, Marylanders of Color have adapted, evolved, and prevailed.

Projects from Spring 2019
2. Diverse Connections: Making the 1850-1870 Calvert County Census Come Alive!
3. Legacy of Slavery: Constructing Free Black Marylanders’ Lived Experience through Government Documents:

Legacy of Slavery: Constructing Free Black Marylanders’ Lived Experience through Government Documents
Benjamin Shaw

Certificate of freedom is the first and perhaps most important document relating to the life of a free black person. In many cases, these documents are the only ones that exist for a particular individual. In order to construct a fully detailed picture of an individual's life, the certificate of freedom provides vital information about their past and present circumstances.

The certificate of freedom is often issued by the local authorities and contains details such as the individual's name, date of birth, source of freedom, and any other pertinent information. It is an important document that helps to understand the historical context and personal circumstances of individuals who were free black Marylanders.

In the case of families who had been enslaved, the certificate of freedom provides crucial information about their journey towards freedom. This includes the date of freedom, the location where the certificate was issued, and any other relevant details.

4. Families in Flight: Runaway Slaves and their Children 1783-1859:

Families in Flight: Runaway Slaves and their Children 1783-1859
Christiana P. Perry, MLIS ’20

Using the Maryland State Archives Runaway Slave database, I worked with many people who had mentioned children in order to create a visualization that might yield information about families with kids. I then used mapping software to show the flight paths and locations frequented by the enraptured. I also analyzed information about the nature of the groups themselves to create a profile of families in flight. Finally, I created a digital library to select members of the cohort.

This work has been supported by the Maryland State Archives and the Maryland Digital Innovation Center for the Robotic-Centric Innovation Center under the auspices of the Digital Innovation Center.
2. Japanese American WWII Camps

Goals and Scope
During World War II, over 120,000 Japanese Americans were relocated and jailed across 10 camps. The National Archives maintains record series related to the War Relocation Authority (WAR) agency that oversaw the incarceration. Among these are “Internal Security Case Reports” prepared by Relocation Center staff relating to alleged cases of disorderly conduct, assault, theft, loss of property, and accidents. This project focuses on the “Internal Security Cases” index cards. Each card includes a case number, type of charge, names and addresses of persons involved, time and place where the incident occurred, and account of the incident, and refers to a more detailed case file (for which access is restricted). See:

- http://ddr.densho.org/names/
- https://catalog.archives.gov/id/1264228

Projects from Spring 2019
2. Mapping Japanese-American WWII Incarceration Camp Records:
3. Visualizing Tule Lake: A Data-Driven Approach to Understanding Japanese American Internment During World War II:

4. The Power of Controlled Vocabulary: Drawing Narratives of Internment from Big Data: