3 October 2016

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

We are delighted to be able to announce the inception of Enlightenment Architectures: Sir Hans Sloane's catalogues of his collections, *a new research project based at the British Museum in collaboration with the Department of Information Studies at University College London.* 'Enlightenment Architectures' *will start on 3 October 2016 and will run for three years until 30 September 2019.*

The project has received generous funding from the Leverhulme Trust in the form of a Research Project Grant totalling £332,552 awarded to the British Museum, where Dr Kim Sloan is the Principal Investigator. The Co-Investigator on the project is Dr Julianne Nyhan and the Senior Research Assistant is Dr Martha Fleming.* The grant will also accommodate two Post Doctoral Research Assistantships and one Doctoral Studentship. The call for applications for the PDRA positions are live now on the British Museum jobs website: Post Doctoral Research Assistant: Enlightenment Architectures (x2). The call for applications for the Doctoral Studentship will appear shortly on the University College London jobs website.

The objective of Enlightenment Architectures: Sir Hans Sloane's catalogues of his collections is to understand the intellectual structures of Sloane's own manuscript catalogues of his collections and with them the origins of the Enlightenment disciplines and information management practices they helped to shape. The project will employ a pioneering interdisciplinary combination of curatorial, traditional humanities and Digital Humanities research to examine Sloane's catalogues which reveal the way in which he and his contemporaries collected, organised and classified the world, through their descriptions, cross-references and codes. The project will draw on the research framework that emerged from the 2012 AHRC-funded 'Sloane's Treasures' workshops, and findings will make significant contributions to histories of information science, histories of collections, and philosophy of knowledge, and will benefit a wide range of other disciplines as well.

Six manuscript catalogues created from 1680 to 1753 and selected from across the three institutions now holding Sloane's materials – the British Museum, the British Library, and the Natural History Museum – will be transcribed and closely analysed by the interdisciplinary research team with the assistance of curatorial support from those three institutions. Regular workshops between curators, humanities researchers, and digital humanities practitioners will produce a deeper understanding of the structure and content of the catalogues. This will be disseminated through:
• scholarly publications and conference contributions
• focused workshops and a project website
• a prototype linked data ontology for use in digital analysis of early modern collections

We look forward to communicating with you about our work, and welcome contributions from the wide-ranging scholarly communities whose disciplines will participate in and benefit from this research. We ask you to assist us in disseminating the announcements for the two Post Doctoral Research Associateships and the Doctoral Studentship, and would ask you to alert colleagues and students who are eligible and appropriate to apply. As this is a Leverhulme Grant, the Doctoral Studentship is open to the EU as well as to UK applicants. The Research Associateships are open to international applicants.

With very best regards,

Dr Kim Sloan and Dr Julianne Nyhan

*   Enlightenment Architectures: Sir Hans Sloane's catalogues of his collections
      Partners:
      • The British Museum
      • University College London Centre for Digital Humanities
      Project Team:
      • Dr Kim Sloan is Curator of British Drawings and Watercolours before 1880 and the Francis Finlay Curator of the Enlightenment Gallery at the British Museum:
        http://www.britishmuseum.org/about_us/departments/staff/prints_and_drawings/kim_sloan.aspx.
      • Dr Julianne Nyhan is Senior Lecturer (Associate Professor) in Digital Information Studies at UCL's Department of Information Studies: https://www.ucl.ac.uk/dis/people/juliannenyhan.
      • Dr Martha Fleming is a specialist in collections-based research and an historian of science:
        http://marthafleming.net/.