

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title	Research Fellow	Duration	Fixed-term
Division	Collections	Hours/FTE	0.8 FTE
Dept	V&A Research Institute / Design, Architecture & Digital	Salary	£32,570 per annum, pro rata
Reports to	Curator of Digital Design	Direct Reports	None

Context

Preserving and sharing born-digital and hybrid objects from and across the National Collection is a foundational collaborative project funded through the AHRC's programme: **Towards a National Collection: opening UK heritage to the world**. Led by the Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A), in collaboration with the British Film Institute (BFI) and Birkbeck, University of London, the project addresses the challenges of collecting, preserving, linking and sharing born-digital and hybrid collections with the public. It will involve participants from across the national collection and museum sector, as well as partners and stakeholders outside the UK, focusing on three key areas of digital collecting: collections management, digital conservation, and access, experience and meaning.

This research project is based within the Collections Division at the V&A, between the Design, Architecture and Digital (DAD) department and the V&A Research Institute (VARI). DAD is a curatorial department which focuses on the subjects of contemporary architecture and urbanism, product design and digital design. DAD's activities focus on discipline- and object-based research, on developing the Museum's collection and making it accessible through exhibitions, displays, the web, traditional publications, and events. DAD is a department motivated by the civic role of the museum in contemporary society, and works as a team to collect and exhibit objects that tell stories about design and public life.

VARI directs the V&A's research strategy, and conducts, facilitates and promotes research across the V&A. It manages a portfolio of externally-funded research projects; hosts and supports research and development for exhibitions, publications and other public outputs; and promotes research produced across the Museum. VARI serves a broader research community, including colleagues across the Museum, visiting fellows, professors and practitioners, a large and thriving postgraduate community and many external collaborators.

Main Purpose of job

The Research Fellow will work on all aspects of **Preserving and sharing born-digital and hybrid objects from and across the National Collection** as a core member of the project team. Based at the V&A but working across project partner institutions, the Research Fellow will play a vital role in research, in the delivery of the project's activities and in project administration. They will coordinate meetings between the project's Principal Investigator (PI), Co-Investigators (Co-Is) and project partners, support the PI in the organisation of research workshops, and in the writing and dissemination of reports and research outputs.

The Research Fellow will carry out independent research, including a literature review of existing scholarship exploring the expanding importance of born-digital and hybrid objects within museums and the collection challenges these objects present. This research, carried out in collaboration with the PI and Co-Is, will bring together insights and findings from such fields as museum and curatorial studies, digital visual culture, and design theory. The Research Fellow will contribute towards potentially groundbreaking reports that will provide key recommendations for the museum sector and collecting institutions that aim to bring born-digital and hybrid digital objects into their collections and to preserve and present them for future audiences.

Key Responsibilities

Produce a Literature Review, alongside the PI and Co-Is, on existing best practices in collecting born-digital and digital/physical hybrid design.

Engage with relevant existing research relating to V&A and BFI collections and curatorial frameworks.

Work alongside the PI and Co-Is on the delivery of project activities, including workshops.

Work alongside the PI and the Research Grants Manager on day-to-day project financial management and reporting.

Work with the PI and Co-Is to produce project reports for publication and circulation to the museum sector, and for presentation at relevant conferences.

Attend, document and present at project meetings.

Promote equality and diversity in all aspects of your work by developing and maintaining positive working relationships, ensuring that colleagues are treated fairly and with respect/dignity and actively contributing to developments that support the museum's strategy for widening access, inclusion and diversity.

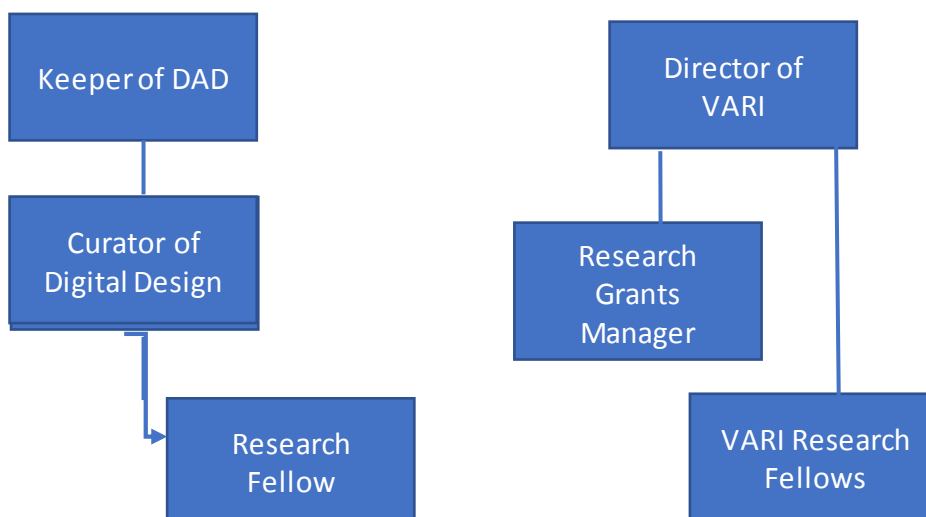
Carry out ad hoc duties as requested by appropriate managers.

The above job description is intended to be an outline of the duties and responsibilities for this role. This is not exhaustive, and it is likely to change over time. You may be expected to undertake other duties that are commensurate with this role.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Job Specific	A PhD or equivalent skills and expertise gained, for example, in curatorial or research capacity. We would also welcome those with expertise in Science and Technology Studies or Computer Science. Candidates who have submitted their PhD but not yet had their viva are welcome to apply.
	Experience of workshop design and delivery with multiple project partners and stakeholders.
	Strong experience of creatively communicating research to both specialist and public audiences.
	Proven research interest in born-digital and hybrid digital design
Core Skills	Strong research writing, presentation and editing skills.
	Significant experience of managing and prioritising a high workload and multiple complex issues and tasks in a changing environment with tight deadlines
	Demonstrable experience of working as part of a research project with multiple partners
	Excellent organisational skills, including the ability to efficiently balance and prioritise shifting tasks and deadlines.
Behaviours	Respects others' expertise, time, perspectives and contribution.
	Takes responsibility for delivering on actions, achieving high-standards and learning from mistakes
	Open to change , new ideas and suggestions; looks for opportunities for improvement and self-development
	Works with others outside their own department in a collaborative, understanding, and, engaging way.
Desirable	1. Technical digital conservation skills.

Position in the team



Hours: Net working hours (i.e. excluding meal breaks) are 36 per week.

Normal working hours are 9am -5.15pm Monday to Thursday and 9am -5pm Fridays.