The Research Portal Newsletter

HAPPY 2018!

Welcome to the third issue of the Research Portal Newsletter. This issue will celebrate outcomes from the fist six months of the Portal testing and continue to promote collaboration opportunities.

With institutions in the midst of evaluating new graduate student applications, we encourage faculties to review the listing of projects in the hopes of realizing positive community outcomes alongside academic requirements.

Once again, there is no shortage of community interest in participating in the program, to the point that we have had to dial back our active outreach until we have a sufficient grasp on how and when the Portal is being used by interested researchers from academia. As a new cohort of graduate students apply, we encourage supervisors to review the project listings to see where research interests align.
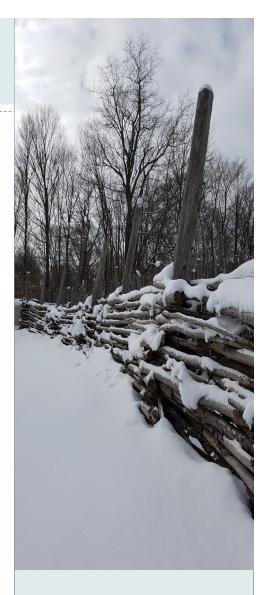
We also encourage feedback, from all participants, about how we can make the Portal more accessible and when are the best times to communicate the projects we are promoting.

WHAT IS THE RESEARCH PORTAL?

The Research Portal was first conceptualized in 2016 as part of a postdoctoral fellowship grant application to the Mitacs Elevate program with the support of Timmins Martelle Heritage Consultants and Sustainable Archaeology @ Western. Once awarded, postdoctoral fellow Dr. Joshua Dent began working on the technical design and community networking necessary to realize a test version of the Portal.

The Portal Pilot Project is a free listing service for community-based research opportunities which originate from an non-academic organization's own research objectives. This listing is provided to institutional researchers (faculty, graduate students, direct studies, etc.) to encourage research partnerships capable of achieving both academic and non-academic research goals.

Community-based, participatory research is nothing new. Conventionally, this research is initiated by academics approaching non-academic individuals and organizations with more or less fully formed research projects which these communities review and then choose whether or not to participate. The Portal inverts this process by instead querying and listing community-sourced projects that can be adapted to academic research. Interested researchers contact designated community liaisons who then decide if the researcher is the right fit for their project.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Featured Projects
    - Indigenous Trails
    - Historical Representation
    - Repatriation Model
    - Linguistics and Heritage
- Featured Quotes From:

The IPinCH Project (Intellectual Property Issues in Cultural Heritage)

SCOPE OF THE PILOT PROJECT

The objective of the pilot project is to gather and present a list of heritage-related, community-sourced research projects to History, Geography, Indigenous Studies, and Anthropology Departments in SW Ontario universities. Graduate students and faculty will use the list to contact and define a relationship with these communities for the purposes of conducting research capable of achieving both academic and community goals. The Portal's effectiveness can then be judged to assess the benefits of expanding the service to other disciplines and regions.

We are starting with heritage projects because these correspond with our backgrounds and the original scope of the Mitacs fellowship. Should the Portal prove worthwhile, it is very likely that it will expand to include projects from other Social Science and Humanities disciplines in the near future.

"Indigenous peoples, scholars, practitioners, and policy-makers are increasingly faced with dilemmas about right, responsibilities and access to intellectual products associated with cultural heritage including research data, and use of artifact and site images." - IPinCh Project Description

PROJECT:

INDIGENOUS TRAILS IN THE LONDON AREA

Project Partner: London Heritage Council

Working with the staff of the London Heritage Council, the researcher will undertake the relocation of Indigenous trails in the London, Ontario area and assist in the design and delivery of appropriate commemoration including interpretative signage and an online exhibition. The researcher will be expected to coordinate their research efforts with local First Nations.

Start date: 2018

Type:

Directed Learning; Masters

Suggested Disciplines:

History; Geography; Indigenous Studies

Learn More (login required)

HOW IT WORKS

Academic institutions (departments and research centers) are given privileged, password protected access to a list of community-sourced research projects to encourage community-based research at the directed learning, graduate student and faculty levels. Ask your department about access to the Portal!

Once given access to this private list, interested researchers proceed through the following steps:

1. Review - Browse the list for projects of interest
2. Connect - Contact the liaison of a project to request to participate
3. Research - Based on pre-agreed research conditions, research commences
4. Disseminate - Based on pre-agreed research conditions, outcomes are communicated

Communities posting a project have a different Step 1 (Listing) but Steps 2-4 are same.

The project list contains all active projects available for collaboration. To add a project to the list, a community contacts Portal Administration (jdent3@uwo.ca) and together they draft the details and resources attached to a project. Projects can be large (requiring multiple coordinated researchers) or small (providing a single example or field site for a graduate student or undergraduate coursework). This list will be updated regularly.

Sustainable Archaeology

PILOT PROJECT SUPPORT

The Research Portal is developed in partnership with Sustainable Archaeology and Timmins Martelle Heritage Consultants Inc. under a Mitacs Elevate postdoctoral fellowship:

Timmins Martelle Heritage Consultants embraces the respectful conservation of Ontario's cultural heritage, working in partnership with municipalities, public and private organizations, First Nations communities and other stakeholders, scholars and the general public. Through public outreach and the responsible recovery of remnants of the past, it is our goal to foster pride in our shared multi-cultural past and preserve its stories for future generations within the process of building for our future.

Sustainable Archaeology is a collaborative initiative between the University of Western Ontario, in London, Ontario, and McMaster University, in Hamilton, Ontario, advancing a sustainable form of archaeological practice and research.

Mitacs builds partnerships between academia, industry, and the world – to create a more innovative Canada. Mitacs Elevate is a postdoctoral fellowship with a customized research management training component.

PROJECT:

RECONCILIATION AND REPRESENTING HISTORICAL FIGURES

Project Partner: Museum of Ontario Archaeology

In cooperation with the Museum of Ontario Archaeology, the researcher will address how museums can represent prominent historical figures in a manner sensitive to the objectives of contemporary reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples. Referencing primary documentation housed at the Museum, the researcher will design and coordinate an exhibit about this issue with respect to prominent figures from the Museum's past.

Type:

Masters

Suggested Disciplines:

Anthropology; History; Indigenous Studies; Information Studies

Learn More (login required)

PROJECT:

SMITHSONIAN REPATRIATION

Project Partner: Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation

Working with the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation (MNCFN), the researcher will conduct the research and reporting necessary to apply to the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) for the repatriation of Dr. P.E. Jones-affiliated collections.

The researcher will also carry out a needs assessment of existing and proposed local conservation capacities based on the conservation requirements of objects requested to be repatriated.

Type:

Masters/Doctoral

Suggested Disciplines:

Anthropology; Archaeology; History;

Indigenous Studies; Information Studies

Learn More (login required)

DON'T HAVE A LOGIN?

Departments/faculties/supervisors interested in participating can contact Josh Dent (jdent3@uwo.ca) to subscribe. Students can ask their department to contact Josh for access.

Listing and reviewing projects is a free service during the pilot phase. As the Portal evolves we will be exploring various funding models with the intent to keep some form of free project listing.

WHY RESTRICT ACCESS?

First and foremost, restricting access to the listings is intended to provide communities with a basic form of researcher screening, although we still encourage all involved to independently assess who they are corresponding with.

As the Portal develops, we will revisit the balance between privacy and accessibility, in consultation with community partners, as we try to best deliver on the potential of this service.

LOOKING FOR MORE INFORMATION?

Visit www.insituated.com/research-portal or contact Josh Dent (jdent3@uwo) to arrange a department/university information session.

COLLABORATION TIPS:
DEVELOP A RESEARCH AGREEMENT

Most institutions operating under [Tri-Council](#) funding adhere to strict ethical policies and review processes, however these requirements derive from academic and legal responsibilities more than any community-specific obligations. When academic researchers and communities collaborate, we highly recommend developing a research agreement.

A research agreement (e.g., a memorandum of understanding/agreement) outlines the concerns and responsibilities of collaborating parties. Topics of consideration should include social protocols, reporting, sensitive information, and intellectual property concerns.

While not a contract, per se, research agreements are a mutually agreed upon means of guiding collaboration. For more information: [IPinCH](#)

NEW AUDIENCE: GRADUATE STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

As we explore ways of better connecting researchers with community projects, the Portal will adjust where promotion is directed. To date, target audiences have largely been heritage-related faculties and departments of Southwestern Ontario universities. While we have had positive feedback, we are experiencing a certain bottleneck factor, where the information seems to stall before reaching graduate students.

This issue, we look to student-organized groups within these institutions to gauge student interest in these projects.

At the moment, graduate students will still have to approach their supervisors and departments to gain access to the project listing. If we can demonstrate demand for access is high enough, we may be able to justify alternative means of accessing the Portal without relying on university departments as gatekeepers.

> *"Crafting a MOA will promote exchanges that are fair, equitable, and culturally appropriate to all parties involved..." - IPinCH MOA Fact Sheet*

PROJECT OUTCOME: HISTORIC LOT AND CONCESSION GIS LAYER

In 2017, during the Research Portal testing, Heritage Planners with the City of London identified their need to integrate historic lot and concession spatial information into their ArcGIS platform. The proposed project would digitally reconstruct the historic lots and concessions used to delineate property prior to the implementation of the municipal lot system. This system would streamline elements relating to historical research for property evaluations and designations under the Ontario Heritage Act. The Portal's network of academic and commercial contacts indicated that such information already existed, although its location was not well known.

John Moody, with Timmins Martelle Heritage Consultants Inc., knew where this information could be found and provided county-specific information to the Heritage Planners. GIS technicians with the City were then able to incorporate the data into a web platform for use by the Heritage Planners.

This project, such as it was a project, revealed the potential for the Portal to provide outcomes through an organization communicating a need and networking with researchers capable of quickly fulfilling that need.

Outcome Page: https://insituated.com/po-planning-historic-lot

The Research Portal

www.insituated.com/research-portal
E-mail: jdent3@uwo.ca

WANT TO PARTICIPATE?

Communities - Projects are being accepted for disciplines related to heritage studies (Anthropology; Archaeology; Geography, History; Indigenous Studies; Information Studies, etc.). Contact us by email (jdent3@uwo.ca)

Researchers - Contact your department (Social Sciences and Humanities departments) to see if they have an account.

Institutions - To get an account contact Josh Dent (jdent3@uwo.ca) with your department name and primary contact information.

Newsletter Quotes From:

The IPinCH Project: Intellectual Property Issues in Cultural Heritage: Theory, Practice, Policy, Ethics. https://www.sfu.ca/ipinch, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC.

About the Newsletter:

Produced monthly, the intent of this newsletter is to communicate changes to the Portal as it progresses through its pilot implementation and to highlight particular projects currently seeking partnerships within the platform. Each of these featured projects has been approved for public communication by the community partner.

As connections start forming and research begins, expect to see updates from projects, articles celebrating research outcomes and other information.

PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS

Newsletter Vol. 1(1)

Newsletter Vol. 1(2)