

THE RESEARCH PORTAL NEWSLETTER

The Research Portal
www.insituated.com/research-portal
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THE LAST ISSUE OF THE PORTAL TEST

Last year, around this time, the Research Portal began its preliminary testing phase. Several community-sourced projects were posted and more were added as the year went on. As of today there are 12 open projects, many of which have been on the listing for close to a year. Nine months ago, we suspended actively soliciting new community projects while we gauged academic interest that never really materialized. The next phase of the Portal will seek to reduce barriers to and encourage academic participation.

Nevertheless, the Portal has enjoyed some success. Two listed collaborative projects found partnerships, a third project was completed almost immediately, and because of a fourth project, a suite of important but largely forgotten maps to archaeology were reconnected to the discipline. These last two projects' outcomes have been posted to the Portal to share with others. What these projects demonstrated was that the Portal functions as much as a network of knowledge as a network of people. Going forward we will explore how best to accommodate both functions.

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.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Scope of the Pilot Project ...	2
How it Works.....	2
Pilot Project Support.....	3
Login Information.....	4
New Outcome Type	5
The Path Ahead	5
How to Participate.....	6

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Featured Projects
 - Faunal Analysis
 - Historical Representation
 - Repatriation Model
 - Linguistics and Heritage
- Featured quotes in this issue are intended as trailheads to other literature.



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 can use the list to contact and co-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.

“Creative approaches must be discussed and debated by aboriginal communities, academic institutions, and individual researchers to reach a working relationship that neither constricts the advancement of knowledge nor denigrates the aboriginal communities’ legitimate authority over the integrity of their own intellectual traditions” - Cecil King

PROJECT:

INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES IN DIGITAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXTS

Project Partner: [Sustainable Archaeology](#)

In cooperation with Sustainable Archaeology, the researcher will conduct an environmental scan of national and international contexts critically analysing instances of Indigenous heritage values of place and object being incorporated into digital archaeological inventories and platforms (i.e., place names, narratives). The researcher will then assist in the application of their research to developing Indigenous language elements of Sustainable Archaeology's digital information platform.

Start date: 2018

Type:

Master/Doctoral

Suggested Disciplines:

Linguistics, Indigenous Studies, Digital Humanities, Geography, Archaeology

[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.



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 Inc.**

Timmins Martelle Heritage Consultants embraces the respectful conservation of Ontario's cultural heritage, working in partnership with municipalities, public and private organizations, Indigenous 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)

PROJECT:

SIX NATIONS OF THE GRAND RIVER REPATRIATION MODEL

Project Partner: [Six Nations of the Grand River Land Use Unit](#)

Working with the Six Nations of the Grand River Land Use Unit and traditional knowledge keepers, the researcher will undertake the repatriation to Six Nations of human remains housed at the University of Toronto, assisting to finalize a series of negotiations between Six Nations and the University. In the course of completing this task, the researcher will critically assess the repatriation process and develop a model set of procedures that can be applied to other instances of repatriation.

Type:

Masters; Doctorate

Suggested Disciplines:

Anthropology; Archaeology; Indigenous Studies

[Learn More](#) (login required)

PROJECT:

MODIFIED FAUNAL REMAINS OF THE DORCHSETER SITE

Project Partner: [Timmins Martelle Heritage Consultants](#)

In cooperation with Timmins Martelle Heritage Consultants, the researcher will conduct a quantitative analysis of modified faunal remains within the Dorchester Site Collection. Potential analyses include species, modification type and spatial distributions. It is anticipated that the researcher and the community will coauthor an article about the results of research in an appropriate journal.

Type:

Masters

Suggested Disciplines:

Archaeology

[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.

With the testing phase nearing its end, 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. One possibility is splitting the listing in two, one public, one private.

LOOKING FOR MORE INFORMATION?

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

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.

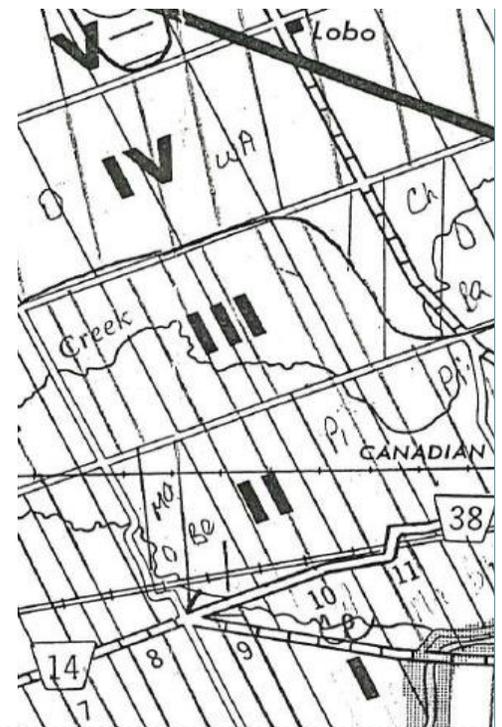
A research agreement (e.g., a memorandum of understanding/agreement) outlines the concerns and responsibilities of collaborating parties. Topics of consideration should include social protocols, reporting, sensitive information, and intellectual property concerns.

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

NEW OUTCOME TYPE: SATELLITE OUTCOMES

In the last newsletter, we communicated the outcome of the City of London's Historic Lot and Concession Project, a project that resolved almost before it started. The Portal's network quickly provided a solution to the City's request because the information existed, it just wasn't well known.

Similar circumstances surround the reemergence of the Findlay Maps, a series generated in the 1970s when Peter Findlay transcribed 19th century surveyor notes on vegetation, soils and Indigenous land-use onto SW Ontario county maps (see <https://insituated.com/findlay-maps> for more information). Although these maps were revisited to assist with the London Indigenous Trails project, they did not contain significant information related to that desired outcome, however the maps themselves represented a significant resource that would be of use to others. Therefore a new type of outcome was needed to contextualize tangential but still important project outcomes, designated satellite outcomes.



“Giving back is not a difficult concept, yet one of the most egregious actions of Western research into the lives of Indigenous peoples is the negligence of this ethic. Giving back does not only mean dissemination of findings; it means creating a relationship throughout the entirety of research.” - Margaret Kovach

THE PATH AHEAD

As initial testing of the Portal platform draws to a close, we consider next steps. In the near term not much will change. Projects that are currently posted will remain posted until they result in a partnership or the community directs their delisting. A limited number of projects may be added before the next form of the listing takes shape, as several are waiting in the pipeline.

A preliminary recommendation from testing, will be to create two listings, one private and one public. This will address privacy concerns related to sensitive projects while also creating a more accessible listing of other, less sensitive projects, hopefully capable of attracting more significant academic participation.

The next couple of months will determine whether the Portal has the potential to grow or should remain a small, easily managed initiative.

We want to extend a big thank you to our community and academic partners. We could not have accomplished what we have so far without your help. We are happy that some of you have already realized benefits from the Portal and we remain committed to helping others realize the same.

PROJECT:

INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES AND ARCHAEOLOGY IN SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO

Project Partner: [Sustainable Archaeology](#)

In cooperation with Sustainable Archaeology, in consultation with Southwestern Ontario First Nations, and working with Anishinaabe/various Iroquoian language speakers, the researcher will compile/compose Indigenous language vocabularies of archaeological terminologies/activities.

Type:

Masters

Suggested Disciplines:

Linguistics

[Learn More](#) (login required)

NEXT ISSUE:
Phase 2 of the Research Portal
Project Updates

The Research Portal

www.insituated.com/research-portal

E-mail: jdent3@uwo.ca



WANT TO PARTICIPATE?

Communities - Projects are being accepted on a limited basis 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:

King, Cecil (2011) Here Come the Anthros. In *Indians and Anthropologists: Vine Deloria Jr. and the Critique of Anthropology*, edited by T. Biolsi and L.J. Zimmerman, pp. 115-119. University of Arizona Press, Tucson, AZ.

Kovach, Margaret (2009) *Indigenous Methodologies: Characteristics, Conversations, and Contexts*. University of Toronto Press, Toronto.

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\(2\)](#)

[Newsletter Vol. 2\(1\)](#)

