



Smithsonian

Robert Frederick Smith Summer 2022 Internships

Offsite at Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture

DIGITAL HISTORY (2 POSITIONS)

[Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture – Salisbury, Maryland](#)

The mission of the Nabb Research Center is to cultivate and sustain the advancement of scholarly research through collecting, preserving, disseminating, and providing access to records and artifacts which illustrate the rich historical and cultural heritage of the greater Chesapeake (Delmarva) region.

Founded in 1982, the Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture, located on the campus of Salisbury University in Salisbury, Maryland, is a repository for historical documents and artifacts from the Delmarva Peninsula, which encompasses the Eastern Shore counties of Maryland and Virginia and the southern counties of Delaware. The Nabb Center's collections consist of over 2,500 archival collections, 39,000 microform and books, and 8,000 artifacts that cover a wide variety of topics representing the area's complex history and revealing the great diversity of past human experience. The Nabb Center is an integrated division of Salisbury University Libraries.

Position Description:

Enduring Connections: Exploring Delmarva's Black History is a long-term digital humanities project at the Nabb Research Center. The project website features a searchable database for finding meaningful connections within digitized and transcribed sources, such as censuses, certificates of freedom, church records, newspapers, ledgers, and oral histories that illuminate the history of Black communities in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries across the Delmarva Peninsula. These sources help reveal important elements of Black life on Delmarva including family relationships, community connections, the end of slavery, attempts to re-unite family members, work, and connection to the land and water. The website will also feature an online exhibit component. This project aims to bridge long-existing gaps in archival and genealogical collections representing Black history and culture. *Enduring Connections* currently includes 80,000 transcribed entries from 55 sources.

The Digital History Interns will play an integral role in the continuing development of *Enduring Connections*. For this experience, each Digital Project Intern will work with a specific collection or record group, stewarding it through each stage from digitization to curation. The intern will digitize a collection, transcribe manuscript content, enter data in the database, and manage digitized content, culminating in an experience that synthesizes many aspects of the interns' contributions to *Enduring Connections*. Using the assigned collection and other database sources, the interns will curate a brief narrative about an individual, family, or theme to be published on the digital exhibit feature of the website to demonstrate the research value of the *Enduring Connections* project.

Sample of Intern Duties:

- Digitize original or microfilm records from selected collection using BookEye overhead book scanner, ScanPro electronic microfilm scanner, or Epson flatbed scanner
- Transcribe manuscript content from digitized collection into Microsoft Excel
- Enter extracted information into the *Enduring Connections* database, which is an open source, web-based database software created in-house by librarians using PHP programming language on a server running Apache software
- Incorporate digitized content into database by attaching images to corresponding records in the database
- Conduct research and curate a narrative about an individual, family, or theme to publish in the “Stories” digital exhibit feature of the website

Learning Outcomes:

- Acquire project management skills within a collaborative digital humanities environment
- Working knowledge of digital imaging and content management skills and best practices
- Knowledge of implementing an online discovery tool for digital history (*Enduring Connections* database)
- Experience integrating digital assets into an open source, web-based database software created in-house by librarians using PHP programming language on a server running Apache software
- Comprehend fundamentals and purpose of transcribing manuscript content for improved online discoverability and usability
- Enhanced curatorial skills including identifying engaging themes, conducting historical research, and conveying stories through writing and image
- Experience and training on digitization with equipment including overhead book scanner, microfilm scanner, and flatbed scanner

Prerequisites:

- Demonstrated interest in African American history and culture
- Interest in pursuing a career in public history, preservation, or a related field
- Some experience with digital humanities projects is a plus

Work Environment: The Nabb Research Center is team-oriented and succeeds as a small staff through constant collaboration. Staff members value independence with appropriate supervision and applicants who are communicative, diligent, and reliable are sought.

Tentative Schedule: Start date Late-May or early-June; Monday-Friday 8:30am – 4:30pm

COVID-19 Vaccine Requirements: The University System of Maryland (USM) requires all Salisbury University students and employees to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Those who are not vaccinated are required to receive an SU-issued medical or religious exemption from the requirement as a condition for on-campus attendance and employment. This includes those who have previously been diagnosed with COVID-19.

Eligibility: Must be authorized to work in the United States

Housing: On-campus housing provided. Selected interns will not be eligible for the housing and transportation stipend.