

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT POST

Job Announcement: Two Undergraduate Research Assistantships

Project Title and Description: *Teaching the World about Geopolitics and Environmental Issues.*

Researchers have looked at how people are taught about the world and the trends in how issues are discussed. These are usually with small samples of texts, perhaps comparing several textbooks from a pair of years to understand change. This project aims to create a large dataset of texts for students to use in their Capstone courses to analyze how World Regional Geography textbooks discuss geopolitical issues and environmental concerns for general education audiences since World War II to the present day.

Position Description: Two undergraduate research assistants for Fall 2016. Pay rate, \$10 per hour, 10 hours per week, for 16 weeks. Work commences August 22nd, 2016 and ends December 10th, 2016. Students are allowed to use this dataset for their own capstones and other research efforts if desired. Research assistants report to Dr. Darren Purcell (SEC 654).

Duties include:

- a. Assisting in electronic searches for World Regional Geography textbooks in various libraries and through personal correspondence, handling interlibrary loan requests, handling deliveries and insuring textbooks are taken to OU's Digitization Lab, and returned.
- b. Initial creation of metadata files for each scanned text.
- c. Work on quality control for the texts, checking that imagery and text files are properly formatted for potential analysis.
- d. Creation of electronic guides to help students understand how to utilize the texts for their own student research projects.
- e. Creation of lab exercises based on portions of the corpus that can be plugged into various courses.

Skills Required:

- Solid library and database searching skills.
- Good writing skills in terms of email correspondence
- Works as a motivated team player.
- Takes direction but displays independence in accomplishing tasks.
- Good communication skills.
- Interest in how students are taught about geopolitics or environmental issues at the college level is a plus.

If you are interested, email a resume highlighting your relevant skills and a cover letter explaining your interest in the job to Dr. Darren Purcell (dpurcell@ou.edu). Positions remain open until filled.