

Q&A Event: Potential New Funding Opportunities for Research & Innovation Infrastructure in Arts and Humanities

Event Summary

The UK's world-leading status in research and innovation is in large part founded upon its network of internationally competitive, high-quality and accessible research and innovation infrastructure. This includes:

- Large-scale physical research facilities, equipment and sets of instruments, such as synchrotrons, research ships, scientific satellites and 'living labs' like The North Wyke Farm Platform
- Networks of technologies and e-infrastructures including data and computing systems and communication networks, including the high-performance computing service ARCHER
- Knowledge-based resources, including scientific, cultural and artistic collections and archives.

AHRC's IROs, university collections and the wider GLAM (galleries, libraries, archives and museums) sector are major centres of inter and multidisciplinary research, with vast holdings ranging from herbaria and fossils to portrait miniatures and historic sites and monuments. As such, they are the arts and humanities' equivalent to UKRI's large multidisciplinary research and innovation infrastructures located at Harwell and elsewhere. They contribute significantly to the economy, generating c.£30bn GVA per annum through tourism alone and supporting over 400,000 jobs.

The report [Opportunities to grow our capability](#), which sets out UKRI's strategic vision for future investment in research and innovation infrastructure, has identified that critical to the heritage sector's continued success is: (a) investment in conservation and heritage science facilities; and, (b) physical spaces bringing practitioners, curators and scientists together. This need has been rendered more acute within the context of the pandemic, which has highlighted both opportunities for digitally-led engagement with culture, and the fragility of a sector that has historically relied overwhelmingly on physical footfall.

We would like to invite colleagues in IROs, university collections, and the wider GLAM sector to attend a virtual information and Q&A session on **Monday 10 August from 1400-1600**. This will begin with a short presentation followed by Q&A on potential future funding opportunities focusing on renewal, upgrade and maintenance of existing facilities and equipment in conservation, heritage science, digital capture and specialist study spaces. The outputs of the webinar will be made available on the AHRC website shortly thereafter.

Contacts

To attend, please register by emailing infrastructure@ahrc.ukri.org stating your name, full job title and institutional affiliation by **close of play on Friday August 7**, inserting 'Infrastructure Q&A' in the subject line. Questions may be submitted via the above email in advance of the event up until midday on 10 August.