FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY JUNE 2020 – MAY 2022

“The Cyber Vault” Project

The National Security Archive: Founded in 1985 by journalists and scholars to check rising government secrecy, the nongovernmental National Security Archive combines a unique range of functions: investigative journalism center, research institute on international affairs, library and archive of declassified U.S. documents (“the world’s largest nongovernmental collection” according to the Los Angeles Times), leading non-profit user of the U.S. Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), public interest law firm defending and expanding public access to government information, global advocate of open government, and indexer and publisher of former secrets. Since 1995, the Archive has been located in Gelman Library at The George Washington University. (See www.nsarchive.gwu.edu.)

Position Description: Through a generous grant from the Hewlett Foundation, the National Security Archive has an opening for a Cyber Fellow to help run the Cyber Vault Project for a two-year period (June 1, 2020 – May 31, 2022). The Cyber Vault is committed to achieving several main goals: to address the widely-acknowledged problem of over-classification on cybersecurity through the promotion of transparency via the Freedom of Information Act; to help manage the extraordinary growth of publicly available documentation by curating collections of significant primary sources; to be a catalyst for positive educational ends by preserving and disseminating primary documentation and other valuable research materials to a broad audience, from experts to students and the general public; and generally to serve as a public resource on cybersecurity.

Tasks: The Fellow will help continually to update and refine the specific scope and focus of the project. A central area of activity will be to document the evolution of US cybersecurity policy. Assignments will include tracking down US government records and other sources through Web searches and FOIA requests. The Fellow will oversee and contribute to the organizing, cataloguing, and posting of documentation on a dedicated Web site. Preparation of substantive articles for publication is also envisioned. The Fellow will further participate in related research tasks including development of a chronology, bibliography, glossaries, and other research guides. Other key activities will consist of being in touch with experts in the field, engaging on ways to expand and improve the project’s Web presence, consulting with an Advisory Board, and preparing grant reports and proposals.

Qualifications: Applicants should have an advanced degree or equivalent experience in cyber studies or a closely related field such as history, national security, or international affairs. A commitment to developing a solid understanding of the state of the cyber field is important. Applicants should be able to show research, writing, and project management skills. Experience working with government records and FOIA is a strong plus.

Compensation: $50,000 per year.

Date Available: June 1, 2020

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