LAURA BUSH 21st CENTURY LIBRARIAN PROGRAM

Sample Application RE-260377-OLS-26
Project Category: Forum

Drexel University, College of Computing and Informatics

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Amount of cost share:	$0

Drexel University will lead efforts to strengthen workforce development and professional practice for librarians and archivists working with a rapidly expanding digital archival record. Archives and library collections serve as a national treasure, preserving documentary evidence of scientific discovery, innovation, and civic life that have shaped the country. At the same time, the expanding scale of digital collections and advances in computational and Artificial Intelligence (AI) methods present both challenges and new opportunities. While many institutions are experimenting with computational approaches, these efforts often remain siloed, and the profession lacks shared frameworks for workforce competencies, metadata practices, and infrastructure readiness. The project will address this need by convening archivists, librarians, and educators in a national forum on computational archival science and metadata practice.

Attached are the following components excerpted from the original application.

- Narrative
- Schedule of Completion

When preparing an application for the next deadline, be sure to follow the instructions in the most recent Notice of Funding Opportunity for the grant program to which you are applying.

CAMP-250: Computational Archival Science and Metadata in Practice

1. Introduction

Drexel University requests $184,491.49 in IMLS funding to support **C**omputational **A**rchival Science and **M**etadata in **P**ractice for America 250: A National Forum on Infrastructure, Methods, and Workforce Development for the Nation's Digital Record (CAMP-250). As the United States approaches the 250th anniversary of its founding, the nation's archives stand as a national treasure. These records preserve documentary evidence of leadership, scientific discovery, innovation, and civic life which together have shaped the country. At the same time, the rapidly expanding scale of digital archival collections, advances in computational methods, and innovations in artificial intelligence have created both pressing challenges and unprecedented opportunities for archival institutions and workforce preparedness. While many institutions are experimenting with computational approaches to archival collections, these efforts often remain siloed, and the profession lacks shared infrastructure, methods, and workforce frameworks needed to support sustainable computational archival practice. CAMP-250 will address this need by convening archivists, librarians, educators, technologists, and scholars in a national forum focused on **computational archival science** and advanced **metadata** practices for archival collections. The forum will explore computational methods using selected digital collections from four significant cultural heritage institutions: **the Library Company of Philadelphia, the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University, the Free Library of Philadelphia,** and **the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library**. This national initiative will promote the effective use of emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence (AI), to strengthen archival practice and enhance research and public engagement with library and archival collections. These activities will culminate in a **publicly accessible national roadmap** to advance archival infrastructure, methods, and workforce readiness for computational access to the nation's archival record.

2. Project Justification

2.1 Need, Challenge, or Opportunity

Over the past two decades, libraries and archives across the United States have digitized vast quantities of cultural heritage materials. Major national digitization initiatives include **HathiTrust**,[1] the **Library of Congress digital collections program**,[2] and digitization projects undertaken by the **National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)**.[3] These large-scale efforts have significantly enhanced public access to the nation's documentary heritage and created new opportunities for research.

However, the sheer volume and complexity of digital archival collections have far exceeded the capacity to explore them through traditional approaches involving manual description and human analysis. Developments in computational techniques, such as machine learning, natural language processing, computer vision, and large-scale data extraction, are creating new opportunities for large-scale analysis of historical records. These advances present new avenues for discovery across the humanities, social sciences, and sciences. Yet the accessibility of archival collections for large-scale computational analysis remains limited due to the lack of consistent metadata practices, the absence of sufficient technological infrastructure to support computational access, and the lack of shared professional approaches for managing archival collections in computational environments.

[1] Reagan, David, and Katy Börner. "HathiTrust Digital Library." *Atlas of Macroscopes: Interactive Data Visualizations* (2025): 38. https://mitpress.mit.edu/9780262049924/atlas-of-macroscopes/

[2] Library of Congress Labs: https://labs.loc.gov/

[3] National Archives Unveils New Mass Digitization Center in College Park, https://www.archives.gov/news/articles/mass-digitization-center-college-park-opening

In response to these challenges, the field of Computational Archival Science (CAS) has emerged over the past decade as an interdisciplinary field of research and practice that brings together archivists, librarians, data scientists, computer scientists, and digital humanities scholars to explore the potential of computing with archival materials.[4] CAS has helped establish a conceptual and methodological foundation for computational work with archival collections and has encouraged interdisciplinary and inter-institutional collaboration. In 2020, at a CAS workshop held at the British Library and the Alan Turing Institute in London, Principal Investigator Jane Greenberg, Director of the Metadata Research Center at Drexel University, joined colleagues in launching the Advanced Information Collaboratory (AIC).[5] The initiative was established to collaboratively advance mechanisms for addressing pressing challenges in the field by: 1) exploring the opportunities and challenges presented by emerging technologies for archives and records management (including digital curation, machine learning, and artificial intelligence); 2) leveraging advanced computational tools to unlock information contained within large-scale archival collections; 3) fostering multidisciplinary collaboration to share knowledge across domains; and 4) preparing current and future generations of information professionals to think computationally and adopt emerging technologies in response to increasingly large and complex workloads.

As computational technologies continue to evolve and improve, there is an increasing need for broader professional coordination, shared dialogue, and workforce development to support the sustainable implementation of computational archival practices across the profession. Many archival institutions are experimenting with new tools and approaches, but these efforts often occur independently, limiting opportunities for shared learning and coordinated advancement. This moment presents both a challenge and an opportunity for the archival profession to develop clearer frameworks for workforce competencies, infrastructure readiness, and metadata practices that support computational access to archival collections. In 2025, the Society of American Archivists (SAA) convened experts to develop a strategic research agenda aimed at strengthening the profession's capacity to serve its audiences, demonstrate societal value, and expand professional knowledge.[6] Two critical priorities identified in this agenda were: 1) rethinking archival training, and 2) engaging with technology.

CAMP-250 addresses these needs through a national forum grounded in practice-based activities. The forum will support professional exchange and collaborative exploration of computational archival science and metadata practices. Practitioners, educators, and technologists will work together to identify infrastructure needs, methods, and workforce competencies needed to enable sustainable CAS practices and expand access to the nation's growing digital archival record--an effort that is especially timely as the United States approaches the 250th anniversary of its founding.

2.2 Relationship to Existing Work

CAMP-250 builds upon a decade of scholarship and collaborative initiatives in computational archival science that have explored how computational methods can support archival access, description, and research use. The project extends the interdisciplinary work led by scholars such as Jane Greenberg and Richard Marciano, whose collaborative efforts, including the TALENT Network program[7], and workforce development initiatives such as the Digital Curation for Information Professionals (DCIP) Certificate[8], and the Digital Archives Specialist (DAS) Curriculum and Certificate Program[9], have helped establish computational archival science as a growing area of research and professional practice. CAMP-250 also builds upon leadership development and collaborative learning

[4] Computational Archival Science (CAS) portal: https://ai-collaboratory.net/cas/

[5] Advanced Information Collaboratory (AIC): https://ai-collaboratory.net/

[6] Creating a Research Agenda for the Archives Profession (SAA), May 1, 2025, https://www2.archivists.org/sites/all/files/SAA-RAD%20Draft.pdf

[7] TALENT Network (2025), ***T**raining of **A**rchival & **L**ibrary **E**ducators with i**N**novative **T**echnologies,* https://ai-collaboratory.net/projects/talent-network/

[8] DCIP Certificate: https://ischool.umd.edu/academics/certificates-non-degree-study/digital-curation-for-information-professionals-certificate/

[9] Digital Archives Specialist (DAS) Curriculum and Certificate Program: "Enhancing Digital Access: Computational Strategies for Digital Research and Reference Service", https://www2.archivists.org/prof-education/course-catalog/enhancing-digital-access-computational-strategies-for-digital-research

models such as the LEADS (LIS and Data Science) and LEADING (LIS and Data Science-Integrated Network Group)[10] programs led by Principal Investigator Jane Greenberg, providing immersive data science experience for 89 early and mid-career information professionals nation-wide. These programs have supported cohorts of early- and mid-career information professionals in developing data science and digital infrastructure expertise, creating a national network of nearly ninety fellows working across libraries, archives, and related organizations.

CAMP-250 adapts and extends these collaborative models by focusing specifically on computational archival science and metadata practices. Rather than developing new technologies, the project emphasizes professional exchange and practice-based demonstrations that allow archivists and technologists to explore emerging workflows within real archival environments. By grounding the project in practice-based learning and professional coordination, CAMP-250 complements existing scholarship and technical innovation while advancing the infrastructure, methods, and workforce needed to support computational archival practice across a growing professional network.

2.3 Delivering Benefits to Multiple Audiences

CAMP-250 will benefit multiple communities across the archival and cultural heritage landscape. *Archivists and librarians* will benefit from greater clarity around emerging computational practices, workforce competencies, and infrastructure considerations necessary to support computationally enabled archival work. *Early- and mid-career professionals* and *graduate students* will gain exposure to new approaches and tools that are increasingly relevant to archival practice in a data-intensive environment.

The project will also benefit *educators* and training programs preparing the next generation of information professionals. By identifying emerging workforce competencies and professional practices, the CAMP-250 roadmap will inform curriculum development, professional workshops, and internship opportunities in computational archival science.

Finally, *researchers* and the *broader public* will benefit from improved approaches to organizing, describing, and computationally accessing archival collections. As computational methods enable scholars to explore large digital collections in new ways, CAMP-250 will help ensure that archives are prepared to support these forms of discovery while maintaining the stewardship and contextual integrity of the historical record.

3. Project Work Plan

3.1 Project Structure and Activities

- ***Phase 1: CAMP-250 Planning Meeting***

The project will begin with the CAMP-250 Planning Meeting, involving the CAMP-250 Core Team and the CAMP-250 Advisory Group, whose members have expertise in computational archival science, metadata, archives, and digital infrastructure (see section ***3.2 Project Management and Staffing)***. Additional participants will include representative early- and mid-career archivists, along with archives and library science graduate students, in order to incorporate emerging workforce perspectives. Collection liaisons will also be welcome as observers or active participants.

During this meeting, the participants will review current archival workforce competencies and emerging professional expectations, consider those specific to computational archival science, and identify infrastructure and methodological considerations to inform the working group activities. The planning meeting will also help refine the structure of the demonstration activities and guide development of the national forum agenda.

- ***Phase 2: Practice-Based Demonstration Initiative***

Following the planning meeting, CAMP-250 will launch a year-long practice-based demonstration exploring computational approaches to archival collections from the following institutions: 1) the Library Company of

[10] Jane Greenberg (2023). IMLS-funded LEADING Project: https://mrc.cci.drexel.edu/leading/

Philadelphia; 2) the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University; 3) the Free Library of Philadelphia; and 4) the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library. The selected collections reflect the breadth of materials preserved in U.S. libraries and archives. Additionally, the collections represent important dimensions of the American historical record, documenting intellectual life, scientific discovery, civic development, and national leadership. Together, these collections represent areas central to understanding the nation's past as the United States approaches the 250th anniversary of its founding.

Selected institutions and collections include:

1. **The Library Company of Philadelphia**, founded in 1731 by Benjamin Franklin and widely recognized as the nation's first successful subscription library. The selected demonstration collection, the *Library Company of Philadelphia Records (MSS00270)*, documents the early intellectual and civic development of the United States through administrative records, correspondence, financial records, and early library catalogs.
2. **The Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University**, the nation's oldest natural history museum and a major center for scientific research. The demonstration collection will draw upon the archives of the *American Entomological Society*, which document the development of scientific knowledge, research networks, and natural history scholarship in the United States.
3. **The Free Library of Philadelphia**, one of the largest public library systems in the United States, holding archival and image collections that document the civic and cultural life of Philadelphia and the nation. The selected demonstration materials will include *historical image collections* connected to major public events and urban development, including materials associated with the 1876 Centennial Exhibition.
4. **The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library**, the first presidential library established in the United States and one of thirteen presidential libraries administered by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). The selected demonstration materials document one of the most consequential presidencies in U.S. history and provide opportunities to explore computational approaches to large-scale presidential archives that capture major political, economic, and social transformations of the twentieth century. The library was built under President Roosevelt's personal direction in 1939–1940 and dedicated on June 30, 1941.

***Table 1** provides additional information on the demonstration collections and identifies the Collection Liaisons supporting the demonstration activities.*

Institution	Demonstration of Publicly Accessible Digital Collections	Primary Formats	Collection Liaisons
Library Company of Philadelphia	Library Company of Philadelphia Records (MSS00270) documenting the institution from its founding in 1731 through the early national period	Text: Administrative records, correspondence, financial records, and early catalogs	**Dana Dorman**, Archivist, Development and Special Projects Manager
Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University	American Entomological Society archival collections documenting the development of scientific knowledge in the United States	Text: Meeting minutes, scientific records, manuscripts, and research documentation	**Jessica M. Lydon**, Brooke Dolan Archivist **Briana Giasullo**, Cataloging and Digital Resources Librarian
Free Library of Philadelphia	Historical image collections documenting Philadelphia civic life and national commemorations, including materials related to the Centennial Exhibition	Images: Photographs, and other visual documentation	**Scott McClellan** Fleisher Art Center, Darkroom and Open Studio Monitor, and Doctoral Candidate, Information Science, Drexel University
Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library	Presidential records documenting the leadership and policies of Franklin D. Roosevelt during a transformative period in U.S. history	Text and images: Government records, correspondence, and photographs	**Kirsten Strigel Carter** Deputy Director Supervisory Archivist Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum

Practice-Based Demonstration Framework

The demonstration initiative will follow a structured practice-based framework designed to support collaboration, exploration, and professional learning across institutions. The framework includes four core components:

1. **Community Building and Orientation:** Working groups will be established around each collection and will begin with introductory sessions that bring participants together, introduce the collections, and establish communication channels among archivists, technologists, and researchers. Working group participation will be open to the larger LIS (library and information science) and archives field, including LIS/archival graduate programs and front-line early- and mid-career LIS and archives professionals.
2. **Skill Development and Knowledge Exchange:** Participants will have opportunities to engage with computational archival science experts and receive guidance on relevant tools, workflows, and methods, including metadata enhancement, data extraction, AI-assisted description, and preparation of AI-ready archival data and metadata.
3. **Practice-Based Exploration:** Working groups will collaboratively discuss and explore how computational approaches might be applied to their collections. Participants will consider potential research and access questions that scholars or the public may pursue using the collections and will examine how computational methods can support discovery, interpretation, and analysis.
4. **Reflection and Knowledge Sharing:** Throughout the project year, working groups will share observations and experiences related to the tools and workflows explored. These reflections will contribute to broader professional dialogue and inform the development of guidance for the field.

Demonstration Activities

Working groups will meet periodically throughout the project year to discuss and explore how computational archival science methods, including metadata enhancement, data extraction, AI-assisted description, and preparation of AI-ready archival data and metadata, can support discovery, access, and new forms of scholarly use. These activities will be designed as professional demonstrations and collaborative exploration, allowing participants to examine how computational tools and workflows can be applied within real archival environments. Working groups will share institutional perspectives, examine available technologies, and document practical observations related to workforce skills, infrastructure needs, metadata practices, and computational workflows.

Each working group will have modest project resources to explore tools, workflows, or computational methods relevant to their collections. These exploratory activities will enable participants to experiment with emerging approaches, exchange expertise, and identify infrastructure requirements and workforce training needs necessary to support sustainable computational archival practice. The activities are also intended to foster dialogue around evolving workflows, technologies, and professional practices in libraries and archives, helping participants develop practice-based observations that inform discussions across the broader archival and library community.

The insights gained through these demonstrations will inform discussions at the CAMP-250 National Forum and contribute to the development of national guidance for infrastructure development, methodological practice, and workforce preparation. Overall, **the demonstration activities serve as a bridge** between institutional practice and national dialogue, ensuring that discussions at the **CAMP-250 National Forum are grounded in real-world archival environments**.

- ***Phase 3: CAMP-250 National Forum***

In Fall 2027, CAMP-250 will host a national forum of approximately 50 archivists, computational archival science practitioners, educators, and technologists. The forum builds on international experience among project leaders, including collaborative work held at the UK National Archives (described in Section 3.2). The CAMP-250 Forum is designed as a two-day event:

- **Day 1** will feature demonstration presentations and facilitated discussions informed by the project's practice-based exploration activities. Working groups will present insights gained from the exploration

and demonstration initiative, highlighting experiences with computational tools, workflows, metadata practices, and infrastructure considerations. These presentations will establish a shared foundation for discussion and strategy development during Day 2.

- **Day 2** will focus on synthesizing lessons learned and identifying priorities for the field. Through facilitated breakout sessions and collaborative discussions, participants will examine infrastructure requirements, methodological considerations for enabling computational access to archival collections, and emerging workforce competencies, and training needs. The sessions will emphasize identifying practical recommendations and coordinated strategies for advancing computational archival science and metadata practices across institutions.

Table 2: Forum Activities and Topics

Forum Activities	Topics
• skill-building sessions • demonstration presentations • facilitated discussions • collaborative strategy development	• infrastructure requirements • computational methods (machine learning, natural language processing, computer vision, and large-scale data extraction) • computational archival workflows • AI-ready data and metadata practices • workforce preparation/competencies/training needs

The forum will provide a structured setting for stakeholders to engage in collaborative dialogue to addres the future of computational archival science. The professional exchange, grounded in practice-based experiences, will support cross-institutional learning and help identify shared challenges and **next steps for moving forward** related to infrastructure, methods, and workforce preparation. Participants will work together to identify pathways for strengthening workforce development, expanding training opportunities, and supporting the sustainable implementation of computational archival practices across institutions. Overall, the forum will inform the **final report and national roadmap,** helping guide the future development of computational archival science infrastructure, methods, and workforce preparation across the United States.

- ***Phase 4: Final Report and National Roadmap***

Following the forum, the project team will synthesize findings from the planning meeting, demonstration activities, and forum discussions into a publicly accessible report and national roadmap. The report will outline infrastructure priorities, workforce competencies, and practical recommendations for advancing computational archival science and metadata practices across the archival profession. The roadmap will highlight opportunities for curriculum development, workshops, internships, and other professional training initiatives that can help prepare early- and mid-career professionals to work effectively in increasingly data-intensive and AI-enabled archival environments. Together, these outputs will provide actionable guidance for institutions seeking to develop infrastructure, methods, and workforce capacity for computational archival practice.

3.2 Team

CAMP-250 will be supported by three collaborative groups: **1) Core Project Team, 2) CAMP-250 Advisory Group, and 3) Collection Liaisons.** Together, these groups will provide project leadership, strategic guidance, and perspectives that inform the project's activities and outcomes.

3.2.1 Core Project Team

The **Core Project Team** is responsible for overall project leadership, implementation, and coordination of CAMP-250 activities.

Project Leadership

The project will be led by **Principal Investigator Jane Greenberg**, who will oversee project planning, coordination, reporting, and communication across the project team. Dr. Greenberg brings extensive expertise in metadata,

standards development, and AI-ready data, and has long-standing engagement in the Computational Archival Science (CAS) community. She will guide the intellectual direction of the project and serve as the primary liaison with IMLS.

Dr. Greenberg will work closely with **project consultant Dr. Richard Marciano**, an internationally recognized leader in computational archival science, who will provide strategic guidance on CAS methods and support coordination with the broader computational archival science community.

Additional members of the core project team include:

- **Professor Mat Kelly**, who will contribute expertise in computational workflows, web archiving, and AI-assisted archival methods. Professor Kelly will support the design of the practice-based demonstration activities, provide guidance to the working groups, and assist with planning the CAMP-250 National Forum.
- **Professor Heather Willever-Farr**, who will contribute expertise in OCR (Optical Character Recognition) technologies, digital curation, and AI-ready data and metadata practices. She will support the demonstration activities and assist in identifying computational approaches that support access and analysis of archival collections.
- **Project Manager (Graduate Research Assistant)**, who will coordinate project logistics, scheduling, communication with project participants, and organization of working group activities and forum preparation.
- **Technical Consultant**, who will provide guidance on computational infrastructure, tools, and technical considerations relevant to the demonstration activities.

3.2.2 CAMP-250 Advisory Group

The **CAMP-250 Advisory Group** (Table 3) will provide strategic guidance and professional perspective throughout the project. Advisory members will participate in the CAMP-250 Planning Meeting and offer input on project activities, demonstration design, and development of the national forum and final report. Advisory members bring expertise spanning computational archival science, metadata standards, digital infrastructure, archival practice, and artificial intelligence.

Advisory group members have actively served on recent IEEE Computational Archival Science Workshop program committees or other leading metadata and digital library conferences. They have also contributed research in computational archival science and related fields and have been actively engaged in workforce development, education, training, and mentoring across the archival and library communities.

Table 3: *CAMP-250 Advisory Group*

Advisor	**Professional Title / Affiliation**
Dr. Linde Brocato	● Associate Professor and Metadata Librarian, University of Arkansas Libraries
Dr. Sarah Buchanan	● Associate Professor, School of Information Science, University of Missouri
Mark Conrad	● Digital Archivist with more than 30 years of experience working with electronic records, including 28 years at the U.S. National Archives
Dom Jebbia	● AI Infrastructure Resident, Project Manager Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) Libraries
Dr. Rajesh K. Gnanasekaran	● Assistant Director of AI Solutions, Division of IT, University of Maryland
Lori Perine	● Assistant Professor of Math, Stats, and Data Science at Montgomery College (Maryland) ● Special advisor to the Maryland Insurance Administration for implementing AI management and governance ● Former Associate Researcher in Trustworthy AI at NIST

3.2.3 Collection Liaisons

Collection experts will serve as **Collection Liaisons**, providing contextual expertise on collections and supporting communication between the project team and participating working groups (see Table 1, above). Collection Liaisons will ensure that the practice-based demonstration activities reflect the research potential of their collections. This engagement will ensure that project discussions remain grounded in real archival practice.

The project team has prior experience with this collection-based collaborative exploration model. In 2019, project leaders organized a two-day workshop at the UK National Archives in London that brought together interdisciplinary teams to explore five cultural heritage datasets. Each team included four to six participants and was guided by both a technical expert and a collection specialist. The workshop examined conceptual, methodological, and ethical challenges related to applying computational approaches to archival collections and demonstrated the value of collection-centered collaboration for advancing computational archival practice.[11]

3.3 Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholder engagement is central to the CAMP-250 design. The project brings together archivists, librarians, educators, technologists, and computational archival science practitioners to participate in collaborative exploration of computational methods and metadata practices for archival collections. Engagement will occur through multiple project activities, including the planning meeting, demonstration working groups, and the national forum.

Members of the **Core Project Team** are researchers, educators, and information professionals with extensive experience in libraries, archives, and related fields who regularly engage stakeholders through research collaborations, professional leadership, teaching, and participation in national and international professional communities. The **Collection Liaisons** have already been involved in preliminary discussions and will serve as key partners throughout the project. They will serve as collection experts for the demonstration working groups, providing contextual knowledge about their collections and contributing institutional perspectives on computational archival practice, metadata development, and infrastructure needs. Their participation ensures that demonstration activities remain grounded in real archival environments and institutional priorities. Additionally, the **CAMP-250 Advisory Group** will also play an important stakeholder role by providing professional perspectives that reflect developments across the broader archival, library, and computational archival science communities. Advisory members will participate in the planning meeting and contribute guidance on demonstration activities, forum design, and the development of the final report and roadmap.

[11] Jun. 20-21, 2019: Exploring Data, Investigating Methodologies, UK National Archives in Kew, London, https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20250613145931/https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/computational-archival-science-cas-experimentation-knowledge-exchange-and-interdisciplinary-collaborations/

Beyond these direct participants, CAMP-250 engages a wider professional community of stakeholders, including early- and mid-career archivists and librarians, graduate students in library and information science programs, educators developing training programs, and researchers who rely on archival collections for computational analysis. Through the national forum and the dissemination of project outcomes, these communities will contribute to and benefit from discussions about infrastructure development, methodological practices, and workforce preparation for computational archival science.

3.4 Evaluation, Impact, and Sustainability

The CAMP-250 will **evaluate** project activities and outcomes using the performance measures outlined in the project's Performance Measurement Plan (see attachment). These measures assess project effectiveness, efficiency, quality, and timeliness through participation metrics, milestone tracking, and participant feedback collected during the planning meeting, demonstration activities, and national forum. Evaluation findings will help determine how effectively the project supports professional dialogue, workforce development, and shared understanding of computational archival science and metadata practices across libraries and archives.

The **impact** of CAMP-250 will be demonstrated through the national forum and the development of a publicly accessible report and roadmap synthesizing insights from the demonstration activities and forum discussions. These outputs will provide practical guidance for archival institutions seeking to develop infrastructure, methods, and workforce capacity for computational archival science and advanced metadata practices.

CAMP-250 is also designed to support the **sustainability** of these efforts by strengthening national communities of practice in computational archival science. Project findings and the final roadmap will be disseminated through professional venues such as the Society of American Archivists (SAA), the American Library Association (ALA), and related conferences and workshops where archivists and information professionals regularly convene. By connecting archival professionals, educators, and technologists, the project will inform future training initiatives, curriculum development, workshops, and internship opportunities that prepare early- and mid-career professionals to work in increasingly data-intensive and AI-enabled archival environments.

4. Project Results

The primary results of CAMP-250 will be the **CAMP-250 National Forum** and **a publicly accessible national report and roadmap** that provide guidance for advancing computational archival science (CAS), metadata practices, and supporting infrastructure and workforce development across libraries and archives in the United States. These results will synthesize insights from the planning meeting, practice-based demonstration activities, and national forum discussions.

4.1 Intended Results and Deliverables

CAMP-250 will produce the following core deliverables:

- **A National Forum (two-day event):** The forum will convene approximately fifty archivists, librarians, educators, technologists, and researchers to consider insights from the demonstration activities and collaboratively identify priorities for computational archival practice, infrastructure readiness, and workforce preparation.
- **A National Report:** A publicly accessible report will synthesize project findings, including observations from the demonstration activities examining workflows, tools, and computational approaches, as well as lessons discussed during the national forum. These findings will support the development of a national roadmap for advancing computational archival science and metadata practices.
- **CAMP-250 National Roadmap:** The roadmap will address infrastructure considerations for computational access, methodological practices and workflows, and workforce competencies needed to support CAS across institutions. It will also identify opportunities for training initiatives, curriculum development, and collaborative activities across libraries and archives.

Together, these deliverables will provide insightful and practical guidance, and shared direction for libraries and archives seeking to prepare their collections, infrastructure, and professional workforce for computationally enabled research.

4.2 Addressing the Identified Need

Project results directly address the challenges described in the Project Justification: the rapid growth of digital archival collections, the accelerating development of computational technologies, and the lack of shared professional frameworks for implementing these approaches across institutions. By grounding discussions in practice-based exploration with real collections, CAMP-250 will generate field-informed guidance that helps libraries and archives move from isolated experimentation toward coordinated professional practice. The roadmap will provide direction for infrastructure development, computational methods, and workforce preparation, helping institutions build capacity for computational access to archival collections.

The project also responds to priorities identified by the Society of American Archivists, particularly the need to rethink archival training and engage more directly with emerging technologies.

4.3 Adaptability and Use by Other Institutions

CAMP-250 is designed to produce results that are **broadly adaptable across institutions**, including research libraries, public libraries, archives, museums, and academic programs. The roadmap will emphasize principles, practices, and frameworks rather than institution-specific technologies. This approach will allow organizations with varying levels of technical capacity to adapt the recommendations to their own environments. By emphasizing infrastructure readiness, computational methods, and workforce competencies, the project will support institutions seeking to integrate computational approaches into archival practice.

4.4 Dissemination, Sustainability, and Future Work

Dissemination: Project results will be **disseminated broadly** across archival and library communities. The CAMP-250 report and roadmap will be publicly available through Drexel University and shared through presentations, panels, and workshops at professional venues including the Society of American Archivists (SAA), the American Library Association (ALA), and related conferences in digital libraries, archives, and information science.

Sustainability: CAMP-250 is designed to strengthen the national community of practice in computational archival science. The forum and resulting roadmap will provide a foundation for sustained collaboration among archivists, educators, technologists, and researchers. By establishing shared frameworks for workforce competencies, metadata practices, and computational infrastructure considerations, CAMP-250 will support continued professional development and institutional collaboration beyond the project period.

Future work: The insights gained through the demonstration activities and national forum will help identify areas where additional experimentation, research, and infrastructure development are needed. In this way, the CAMP-250 roadmap will serve as a foundation for **future work** that explores computational approaches to archival collections and expand training opportunities for information professionals.

The project will also strengthen a national network of archivists, educators, technologists, and researchers engaged in advancing computational archival science and metadata practice. Through these efforts, CAMP-250 will help position the archival profession to support computationally enabled research and discovery as the United States approaches the 250th anniversary of its founding and beyond. Through these efforts, CAMP-250 will help position the archival profession to support computationally enabled research and discovery as the United States approaches the 250th anniversary of its founding and beyond.

Schedule of Completion

Year	2026				2027												2028	
Activities	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F
Phase 1: CAMP-250 Strategic Planning Meeting ▪ Convene project team and advisory group ▪ Review workforce competencies and computational archival science practices ▪ Finalize the structure of the practice-based demonstration initiative ▪ Identify working group participants Refine agenda and planning for the national forum																		
Phase 2: Practice-Based Demonstration Initiative ▪ Conduct year-long practice-based exploration with working groups organized around four archival collections from partner institutions o Participants will explore computational approaches including metadata enhancement, data extraction, and AI-ready archival data preparation. Working groups will meet periodically to examine tools, workflows, and documentation of observations related to workforce skills, infrastructure needs, and computational archival practices.																		
Phase 3: CAMP-250 National Forum ▪ Convene a two-day national forum bringing together approximately 50 archivists, librarians, educators, and researchers ▪ Participants will share insights from the demonstration initiative and collaboratively identify priorities for workforce development, metadata practices, and infrastructure supporting computational archival science.																		
Phase 4: Final Report and National Roadmap ▪ Synthesize findings from the demonstrations and national forum; develop a publicly accessible national report and roadmap outlining workforce competencies, metadata guidance, infrastructure considerations, and recommendations for advancing computational archival science across libraries and archives. ▪ Disseminate findings through professional venues and project communication																		

Phase	Timeline	Key Activities
Phase 1: CAMP-250 Strategic Planning Meeting	Sept. – Mid-Dec. 2026	Convene project team and advisory group; review workforce competencies and computational archival science practices; finalize the structure of the practice-based demonstration initiative; identify working group participants; refine agenda and planning for the national forum.
Phase 2: Practice-Based Demonstration Initiative	Dec. 2026 – Dec. 2027	Conduct year-long practice-based exploration with working groups organized around four archival collections from partner institutions. Participants will explore computational approaches including metadata enhancement, data extraction, and AI-ready archival data preparation. Working groups will meet periodically to examine tools, workflows, and documentation of observations related to workforce skills, infrastructure needs, and computational archival practices.
Phase 3: CAMP-250 National Forum	Dec. 2027	Convene a two-day national forum bringing together approximately 50 archivists, librarians, educators, and researchers. Participants will share insights from the demonstration initiative and collaboratively identify priorities for workforce development, metadata practices, and infrastructure supporting computational archival science.
Phase 4: Final Report and National Roadmap	Jan. – March 2028	Synthesize findings from the demonstrations and national forum; develop a publicly accessible national report and roadmap outlining workforce competencies, metadata guidance, infrastructure considerations, and recommendations for advancing computational archival science across libraries and archives. Disseminate findings through professional venues and project communication