

CAL Undergraduate Research Scholarships Scheme 2017
Project Proposal Form

Project Proposer/s:	Armin Grünbacher
School/Dept:	SHac/History
Project Title:	‘The Grenville Collection’
Project Summary <p>The late Professor John A.S. Grenville has left a significant collection of microfilms which contain primary sources on US foreign policy during the period of high imperialism at the turn of the 20th century. This project aims to fully register and catalogue the collection so that it is accessible to staff and students of the University and beyond for their own individual research projects. The few available labels on the microfilms indicate that the files will be of interest to, and valuable for, research into US foreign policy in regard to Cuba; Japan; and Western Europe, all areas on which colleagues in the department work.</p>	
What the researcher will do <p>The researcher will check the microfilms for contents and catalogue and label them. This will involve checking if the (few available) labels are correct; if not, they will identify the contents of the films and provide a rough list of documents/topics on the films and in most cases come up with a description of the films' content. Where necessary, new content/name labels have to be produced (most likely in cooperation with Library staff and/or myself). The completed contents list will then be put together in a hardcopy index catalogue which will remain with the films. The scholarship holder will then liaise closely with Library cataloguing staff so that their findings can be included in an appropriate form into the University Library catalogue and Findit.</p>	
Skills required by the Scholarship holder <p>The scholarship holder will need confidence in word processing and the use of spreadsheets/Excel. Furthermore, good organisational skills and the ability to keep an overview of the 50 or so films will be essential. Knowledge of US foreign policy and or international policy during the period of high imperialism will be beneficial.</p>	
How will your Project benefit the Scholarship holder? <p>The scholarship holder will learn how to systematically research primary sources and how to classify & label them, which will be of great benefit for their own archival work for their dissertation. They will have the opportunity to improve their Excel skills and will learn who to create an Index booklet; they will learn (with the Library Cataloguing team) how to maintain and add material to a Library catalogue. Finally, they will learn how to use microfilm readers, both the old analogue/mechanical ones as well as the new digital readers.</p>	
How will the Scholarship benefit your Project? <p>This is not a project linked to my research but one that will provide a resource for the History Department's staff and student community and beyond by cataloguing the collection and making them available for general use. It will benefit in particular colleagues in the department working on US history (N. Cardon); Latin America (C. Campbell) history of high imperialism in East Asia (S. Yeh) and US-European relations in the late 19th & early 20th Century. The collection seems big enough to be used by UG students for individual dissertation topics or aspects thereof. Those colleagues to whom I talked about the project, were very enthusiastic about the prospect of additional dissertation sources at Birmingham for their specialist area of research.</p>	