

## **Project Title** The White House Scientists Archive

**Project Summary** This project will organize, preserve, and carry out research on tens of thousands of records related to the history of U.S. science and technology policy. Fondren Fellows will curate, digitize, and make publicly accessible textual records, oral histories, and audio and visual materials in the White House Scientists Archive, an online collection housed at Rice University's Woodson Research Center in Fondren Library.

**Project Description** The White House Scientists Archive (WHSA) is the nation's premier resource for understanding the history of scientists serving as policy advisors and policy practitioners inside the U.S. federal government. As the importance of government-funded science and engineering is increasingly questioned and jeopardized through recent executive actions, documenting the role of scientists in public policymaking has never been more important. This project has three complementary focus areas:

- **The Daniel S. Greenberg papers:** Woodson Research Center recently acquired the papers of Daniel S. Greenberg, a pioneering science and science policy journalist. This project will focus on processing, digitizing, and ingesting these records into Woodson's physical and online collections, and creating a digital exhibit of Greenberg and his significant contributions to science journalism.
- **Digital stewardship of the WHSA:** The WHSA on Quartex currently contains roughly 1,500 digital assets. We have collected roughly 50,000 pages of unprocessed digital records that need to be organized and remediated for inclusion in the collection. This project focus will continue ongoing work from previous Fondren Fellows developing a workflow and database of born-digital records to enable users to discover and study items in the collection.
- **Research security in the archives:** This project will explore the emergence of research security as a policy issue prior to 2015 and the rise of China as strategic competitor in innovation and advanced manufacturing. Scientific integrity and research security have primarily been handled by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), rather than Congress or individual agencies, making the WHSA a unique platform for studying this evolving policy issue.

## **Key Tasks**

- Sorting, organizing, cataloguing, refolding, and digitizing records.
- Creating a finding aid, creating metadata for the items, and helping with ripping selected media on cassettes, VHS, and DVDs.
- Curating an exhibit on Dan's work, which includes selecting items, drafting exhibit text, and designing the exhibit format.
- OCR, PDF remediation for accessibility compliance, metadata creation, and assisting with workflow development and implementation of born-digital records.
- Coding in FastAPI, a python-based web platform, as well as database management.
- Archival research, a literature review of research security research scholarship, and drafting a research paper or policy brief based on the work.

**Anticipated Project Outcomes** There will be three primary outcomes:

- A new collection and exhibit documenting the life and work of Daniel Greenberg.
- A public database and conference research poster.
- A research brief or paper submitted to a journal or published through the Baker Institute.

**Qualifications**

- No prior experience necessary, except for project focus 2.
- Project focus 2 will require the Fellow to have experience in data science and be a highly capable coder.

**Learning Outcomes**

- Students will develop an advanced familiarity with the history of US science policy and experience in the library and information sciences.
- They will also develop critical communication skills through presentations and writing projects associated with the project.