HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT
GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Ministry of Digital Governance

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FOUNDATION FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY – HELLAS
INSTITUTE OF ELECTRONIC STRUCTURE AND LASER

One (1) research assistant position in POLARIS project

Empowering Libraries to Lead Co-Creation and Innovation through the European Collaborative Cloud for Cultural Heritage

(Call: HORIZON-CL2-2025-01-HERITAGE-03, GA 101290169)
Funded under: HORIZON-IA - HORIZON Innovation Actions



Funded by the European Union

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Heraklion 07-11-2026

The Institute of Electronic Structure and Laser of the Foundation for research and Technology Hellas (IESL-FORTH), in the framework of the project POLARIS (P.I. Prof. S. Sotiropoulou, HORIZON-CL2-2025-01-HERITAGE-03 A European Collaborative Cloud for Cultural Heritage – Innovative tools for the study, conservation and restoration of heritage objects, GA number: 101233413), funded under Innovation Actions, is seeking to recruit one research assistant.

Job Description

We are seeking an experienced, motivated and forward-thinking research data engineer and information systems specialist to join our team and to share activities and responsibilities in the development, testing and integration of tools and services into the ECCCH platform in the context of POLARIS project, https://polaris-eccch.eu/, https://www.echoes-eccch.eu/, GA 101290169, HORIZON-CL2-2025-01-HERITAGE-03. The successful candidate will be responsible for designing, deploying tools, and maintaining robust, scalable information systems and automated data pipelines capable of integrating complex, multimodal cultural heritage data (such as text, high-resolution images, 3D assets, audiovisual media, and scientific/physicochemical analytical datasets). Working closely with multidisciplinary international consortia —including librarians, conservators, heritage scientists, curators, and software engineers—the role bridges domain-specific user requirements and open-source cloud architectures. Benefits for the candidate An international, multidisciplinary research environment bridging cutting-edge computer science and cultural heritage preservation. Opportunities to contribute to high-impact open-source cloud-based tools and European digital policy. Key tasks and responsibilities Data architecture and cloud infrastructure: Implement and maintain scalable data storage, indexing, and ingestion systems for multimodal assets (textual corpora, 2D/3D visual or audio media, conservation archives, and metadata) within cloud-native environments. Semantic data modelling and knowledge graphs: Develop, extend, and implement domain ontologies, knowledge graphs and linked open data structures (e.g., CIDOC-CRM family, RDF/OWL) to enable semantic interoperability across distributed repositories. Applied AI and intelligent discovery: Build end-to-end NLP and LLM-powered pipelines-including vector search, and intelligent retrieval- to enable context-aware natural language querying, automated semantic tagging and

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entity extraction, to enhance discovery across distributed GLAM collections. Tool and interface development: Deploy modular, open-source web applications, REST/GraphQL APIs, and search/exploration interfaces facilitating discovery, semantic cross-referencing, and multi-repository querying. Archival and library co-design: Conduct requirements engineering with curators, archivists, and digital humanists to convert cataloging standards and translate complex archival scenarios into scalable digital workflows. Related Project POLARIS: Empowering Libraries to Lead Co-Creation and Innovation through the European Collaborative Cloud for Cultural Heritage, https://polaris-eccch.eu/

Required qualifications

- Master or higher in Physics, Maths, Computer Science, Digital Humanities, Information Systems or Software Engineering. (10%)
- Solid expertise in Semantic Web technologies (RDF, OWL, SPARQL, JSON-LD) and ontology engineering (CIDOC-CRM family, Europeana Data Model, SKOS). (15%)
- Strong software development skills in Python, Java; experience with REST/GraphQL APIs and microservices. (20%)
- Deep familiarity with library and archival metadata standards (EAD, MARC, MODS, TEI, IIIF) and FAIR data governance (IPR, licensing, GDPR). (15%)
- Fluent English; demonstrated ability to communicate technical data architectures to non-technical GLAM professionals and consortia partners. (5%)

Desirable qualifications

- Practical experience implementing LLM pipelines, and vector search engines. (15%)
- Previous experience with team collaboration: Work closely with cross-functional teams, including developers, data analysts, and stakeholders, to understand requirements, gather feedback, and implement system enhancements. (10%)
- Skills to deliver tutorials and documentation: Provide tutorials and documentation to users on system functionalities, data workflows, and best practices to ensure effective utilization of information systems. (10%)

Location: IESL-FORTH, Heraklion Crete GREECE
Start Date (earliest): January 1, 2027
Project Duration: 12 Months with possibility of extension according to the needs of the project

Application Submission

Interested candidates who meet the aforementioned requirements are kindly asked to submit their applications, no later than **November 27, 2026, 23:59 local Greece time** to the address (hr@iesl.forth.gr), with cc to the Scientific Responsible, Prof. S. Sotiropoulou (sophiaso@iesl.forth.gr).

In order to be considered, the application must include:

- Application Form (please download file from the job announcement webpage https://www.iesl.forth.gr/en/jobs-bids/jobs/job-positions)
- Detailed curriculum vitae (CV) of the candidate
- Scanned Copies of academic titles

Any application received after the deadline will not be considered for the selection

Contact

For information and questions regarding the application and selection procedure, candidates are asked to contact the secretariat (hr@iesl.forth.gr), tel. +30 2810-391300.

For information and questions about the advertised position and the research activity of the group or the institute, candidates are asked to contact Prof. S. Sotiropoulou (sophiaso@iesl.forth.gr, tel. +30 2810-391813.

Selection Announcement

The result of the selection will be announced on the website of IESL-FORTH.

Candidates have the right to appeal the selection decision, by addressing their written objection to the IESL secretariat within five (5) days since the results announcement on the web. They also have the right to access (a) the files of the candidates as well as (b) the table of candidates' scores (ranking of candidates results). All the above information related to the selection procedure will be available at the secretariat of IESL-FORTH in line with the Hellenic Data Protection Authority.

GDPR

FORTH is compliant with all legal procedures for the processing of personal data as defined by the **Regulation EU/2016/679 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data**. FORTH processes the personal data and relevant supporting documents that you have submitted to us. Processing of that data is carried out exclusively for the needs and purposes of this specific call. Such data shall not be transmitted to or communicated to any third party unless required by law. FORTH retains the above data up to the announcement of the final results of the call, unless further process and reservation is required by law or for purposes of exercise, enforcement, prosecution of certain one's legitimate legal rights' as defined in the Regulation EU/2016/679 and/or in national law. We inform you that under the Regulation EU/2016/679 you have the rights to be informed about your personal data, access to, rectification and erasure, restrictions of process and objection to as provided by applicable regulation and national laws. We acknowledge also to you, that you have the right to file a complaint to the national Data Protection Authority. For any further information regarding exercise of your personal data protection rights, you may contact the Data Protection Officer at FORTH at dpo@admin.forth.gr. You have the right to withdraw your application and consent for the processing of your personal data at any time. We inform you that, in this case, FORTH shall destroy such documents and/or supporting documents submitted and shall delete the related personal data.