**University of Lincoln RIF Studentships 2014 **

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| **PROJECT DETAILS** |
| **Project Title**  Tennyson in His Library: Reading, Writing, and Collecting Books in the Nineteenth Century |
| **Project Reference**  RIF2014S-05 |
| **Project Summary**  This project will use the unique private libraries held at the Tennyson Research Centre (TRC), the best single-author archive in the UK, to facilitate innovative interdisciplinary study across the School of Art & Design and the School of Humanities at the University of Lincoln.  The private libraries of Alfred Tennyson, his wife Emily Tennyson, his father George Clayton Tennyson, and his uncle Charles Tennyson d’Eyncourt offer considerable insight into the social, cultural, and intellectual history of books and of reading in the nineteenth century. The project will seek to develop social conceptions of reading, giving us a sense of the way that Victorian readers exchanged as well as absorbed texts. It will also utilise Lincoln’s research strengths in materials analysis, conservation, and restoration in order to adapt forensic methodologies to the study of the book.  Private libraries are an important source for examining literary history and culture from unexpected angles: they offer the potential to challenge conceptions of reading as internal and individual, instead giving us a sense of the way that Victorian readers exchanged as well as absorbed texts. Considering the contours of the collection as a whole moves scholarship away from the blinkered focus on the single text, immediately placing volumes in a broader context of nineteenth-century print culture. The potential for analysing book use, as opposed to book production, within the private library corresponds with the recent scholarly turn in the history of the book towards analysis of marginalia and annotations as evidence of active and dynamic relationships between reading and writing. Using the library, Tennyson can be wrested from his status as the most famous writer of the nineteenth century, and repositioned in terms of his reading, annotating, and collecting practices.  This project will foreground the analysis of material culture, made possible by the unique holdings of the TRC and enhanced by the powerful scientific methodologies available through the Conservation and Restoration subject area within the Lincoln School of Art & Design.  While the student will be given a broad initial remit from which to develop research, specific areas of enquiry might include:   * Tennyson’s libraries and the communications circuit (writing, illustrating, printing, publishing, selling, reading books in the period) * Family libraries and the history of reading * The private library within nineteenth-century print culture * The library and the nineteenth-century collection * Material texts and Tennyson’s oeuvre * Tennyson as annotator * Manuscript and print: Tennyson’s proofs |
| **Supervisory Team**  **1. Dr. Jim Cheshire**, Reader in Cultural History, Lincoln School of Art & Design. <http://staff.lincoln.ac.uk/jcheshire>  2. Dr. Hannah Field, Lecturer in English Literature, Humanities. <http://staff.lincoln.ac.uk/hfield> |
| **Informal Enquiries**  Preliminary enquiries can be addressed to Dr. Jim Cheshire by email at: [jcheshire@lincoln.ac.uk](mailto:jcheshire@lincoln.ac.uk). |
| **Eligibility**  All Candidates must satisfy the College’s minimum doctoral entry criteria for studentships of a Master’s degree or equivalent. A minimum IELTS (Academic) score of 7 (or equivalent) is essential for candidates for whom English is not their first language. Funded Studentships are open to both UK/EU students unless otherwise specified. |
| **How to Apply**  Please send a covering letter outlining your interest and proposed approach (up to 1 page A4) with an accompanying CV (including names of 2 academic referees) to [lengland@post01.lincoln.ac.uk](mailto:lengland@post01.lincoln.ac.uk) by close of day on 18th April 2014. Candidates will be notified w/c 5th May of the outcome of the process and if invited to interview, these are anticipated to take place w/c 26h May. |