

**Organization:** Advanced Information Collaboratory (AIC) – <https://ai-collaboratory.net>

**Primary mentor:** Greg Jansen, Research Software Architect

Project Title	<b>Revisiting the WWII Japanese American Incarceration Camp Experience: Spatial and Temporal Representations from the “Inside Out”</b>
Description	<p>This project seeks to identify how incarcerated peoples connected with each other, especially towards individual, small group, and communal acts of resistance, how they moved around surveillance practices, and how their movements were perceived by state authorities. We draw this hidden history of the WWII Japanese-American incarceration from the soon-to-be-released archival sources that have not yet been available to the public and researchers. March 28, 2021 will mark the 75th anniversary of the closing of the last of these camps, Tule Lake in Northern California, and will be the release date of key records that been restricted for 75 years due to privacy considerations.</p> <p>We welcome candidates who have interest in contributing on any of the key research areas below. This project has many opportunities for analysis and programming that can be adapted to the candidate’s interests and skills.</p>
Problems/ Research Questions	<p>Computational Thinking challenges will be explored including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data creation, manipulation, analysis, and visualization</li> <li>• Designing and constructing computational models</li> <li>• Computer programming, developing modular computational solutions, and troubleshooting and debugging</li> </ul>
Techniques	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Metadata extraction techniques: OCR / Named Entity Recognition (NER) / AI &amp; ML</li> <li>• Integration of name registries and linking</li> <li>• Geospatial mapping</li> <li>• Graph database networking</li> <li>• Entity Resolution</li> </ul>
Tools / Languages used	Jupyter Notebooks, Python, AI/ML services
Data	<p><b>Description:</b> Densho Data: WRA Form 26 (Camp input data), FAR (Camp exit data), Archival Content (Inside the Camps)</p> <p><b>Data Type:</b> CSV, Shapefile, Graph Database, Text</p> <p><b>Data Size:</b> 50K files and less than 1TB</p>
Outcome	<p>The benefits of this project are to gain deeper understanding of WHO was in the camps, and HOW they lived and connected to resist these circumstances. We wish to deepen our understanding of life in incarceration camps, and broaden knowledge of US government policy and American history.</p> <p>Many personal details have not been revealed before, including powerful acts of survival, protest, and resistance in the camps. The goal is for future generations to learn from what really happened inside the camps to <i>promote justice and equity now</i> (<i>Densho’s motto</i>). This project will amplify a message of remembrance, vigilance against loss of civil rights, and social justice solidarity in the present. “Democracy must be learned by each generation” and fought for!</p> <p>Project deliverables may include Jupyter notebooks that demonstrate techniques for processing this data and/or and article or short paper that describes the suitability and application of computational thinking to this collection.</p>
Milestone Timeline	To be worked out with mentor.
References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resistance at Tule Lake: A Conversation with the Filmmaker and iSchool Digital Curators (and Film Viewing). See: <a href="https://ai-collaboratory.net/projects/ct-ja_ww2_camps/digital-curation-students-and-filmmaker-event/">https://ai-collaboratory.net/projects/ct-ja_ww2_camps/digital-curation-students-and-filmmaker-event/</a></li> <li>• “A Former Japanese Internment Camp Prisoner on the Dire Effects of Putting Kids in Detention”, Splinter News, Jun. 18, 2018. See: <a href="https://splinternews.com/a-former-japanese-internment-camp-prisoner-on-the-dire-1826858234">https://splinternews.com/a-former-japanese-internment-camp-prisoner-on-the-dire-1826858234</a></li> <li>• DENSHO: “Preserving Stories of the Past for Generations of Tomorrow”: <a href="https://densho.org/">https://densho.org/</a></li> </ul>