LOCAL RECALL
Frequently Asked Questions ?

What is Local Recall?

Local Recall is a new and innovative Archant project, backed by Google. The aim of the project is to make the old, dormant paper archives currently tucked far away from the public eye accessible to everyone. Those archives are a goldmine of information; we want the community to have full access to it, in the easiest way possible.

How does it work?

This project is simple: make the inaccessible Archant archive accessible again. To do that, we have decided to turn these old papers into the latest technology medium: a chatbot. We know, we know – sounds complex! The truth is, it is (very) complex. But don't worry, we won't go into details here. Here's what you need to know.

The Archant paper archives are currently being scanned by two specialised companies (one in the UK, one in New Zealand). Once each sheet of paper has been scanned, it is digitised and sent to a local Norwich technology company, ubisend.

ubisend are world leaders in artificial intelligence and are our partners on this project along with Google. They excel in turning content and data into conversations using natural language (typing on your phone, using your voice with Amazon's Alexa etc.). ubisend's job is to process each digitised sheet of paper and make the information available to us via voice.

At the end of the entire process, consumers will be able to ask 'What happened on this day in 1945?' to their Amazon voice device. Thanks to ubisend's processing of the enormous amount of data gathered through hundreds of millions of news articles, Alexa will be able to reply with the the top headlines from that date. Any particular headline grab your attention? You can then dig further and get insights into the news that shook the world on that day.

This is a simplified explanation of the way Local Recall will work. The important part is this: Local Recall will give us all access to over 150 years of local news. Impressive!

How can I help?

The process briefly described above is not perfect. Machines do things pretty well, but sometimes nothing beats the human eye. Some of the digitised papers come back to us (and ubisend) with errors the machines could not pick up on.

This is where you come in.
We need volunteers like you to help us fix these errors and make the content perfect. While we do our best to get there and have people helping us, the help of the community will be invaluable in achieving our ambitious goal.

We recently scanned 15,175 pages of various local journals (EDP and Norwich Mercury, mostly). Out of the 15,175, we extracted close to 300,000 unique articles. Most of them came out great, but we need the help of you, our community archivists, to make the rest perfect.

Are you interested in history? Do you have some time to help out on this project? If so, we would love to have you on board! Fill out the form at
https://localrecall.archant.co.uk/volunteer
and we will be in touch.

Which editions are you turning into a super-smart machine?

The plan is to take 300,000 pages of the Eastern Daily Press, get them scanned, digitised, and processed by ubisend. Initially we are trying to pick the years and periods our community will find most interesting and relevant. In time we hope to scan the entire archive, estimated to be 600,000 pages.

What exactly will you need me to do?

Local Recall is a huge project with many moving parts. It is also an innovative project (no one in the world has done this before!). We are figuring out exact processes along the way. For now, all we need is to gauge the interest of the community in helping us.

If you are interested, please visit **https://localrecall.archant.co.uk/volunteer** and fill out the form. At some point in the next couple of weeks, you will receive a guide with more precise, step-by-step information on how to use the software.

How much work is expected from me?

Anything you can do to help will be greatly appreciated. There are no minimum requirements, and we will never insist you do anything at any point throughout your involvement as a community archivist. More information on all of this will be available in due course.

How much time do I have to improve an article?

Editing and improving articles will require a keen eye, a little bit of focus, and time. We want to make sure you have the time you need to make the articles perfect.

By the same token, we need to make sure community archivists who decide to help on a piece of content actually make progress. As such, there will be a limit to the amount of time you have to improve the articles. But don't worry, we will make the time limit more than comfortable enough for you not to feel rushed!

What do I need to be able to help?

You don't need much to contribute to the project:

- **Access to a computer (Mac or Windows PC, laptop or desktop)**
- **Basic computer knowledge**
- **Access to the internet**
- **An interest in local and world history!**

How do I submit my work?

We will provide an editing suite for you to work on. We strive to make it extremely easy to use. You will also receive all the guides and 'how-to' you need to understand exactly what to do. It's going to be an easy, clear, and fun to use platform.

What happens if I can't read the original article?

Great question! We thought of that, and our developers are working on a system that will allow you to add comments to articles where any problems may arise. If the original article is completely illegible, you will be able to flag it to Archant employees.

Will I be able to track my contribution?

We are working on a dashboard area, which will present data and statistics, show how many articles have been edited to contribute to the overall project, and more.

When will Local Recall become available to the public?

Local Recall is expected to go live at the end of March 2019. Due to the innovative nature of the project, this timeline may change slightly along the way. As a community archivist, you will be the first to know every step of the way.

Can I only work on articles or topics I enjoy?

We understand that there may be some articles that you're not interested in. You will have the opportunity to 'pass' on articles that don't appeal to you.

It is important to note that, at some point, we will need all articles done; even the boring ones! While you will have the option to skip articles a few times, we may ask you to bite the bullet now and then, and enhance one that may not necessarily fascinate you.

What if I want to stop volunteering?

That's completely fine. You are volunteering, and this isn't a formal contract! We will be grateful for any time you spend helping us out.

We would be even more grateful if you could let us know when you decide to stop helping us out so that we can learn from your experience, understand what made you leave us, and improve the experience for our future community archivists.

How can I be sure that you won't use my data?

Archant, like all other organisations, is responsible for ensuring adherence to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) that was introduced in the UK on the 25th May 2018. You can find out more details on our website, or by clicking here:
https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-the-general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr/

What does being a volunteer entitle me to?

As this is a volunteer role we will be unable to offer any benefits for taking part, however we are sure that you'll enjoy getting access to our rarely-seen archive material.

I want more info!

Local Recall is an active project. We are making leaps of progress every day. If you fill out the form on **https://localrecall.archant.co.uk/volunteer**, you will be among the first to be informed, every step of the way.

What if I have other questions that aren't on this page?

If you have any questions that aren't covered by the above then please feel free to email Chris Amos, Local Recall Project Manager, at **LocalRecallProject@archant.co.uk**

Finally – thank you so much for taking the time to consider volunteering for such an exciting, unique, and innovative project. Archant believes Local Recall will really benefit our local community.
We look forward to having you on board!

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