



## **PORTA SOPHIA** PSYCHEDELIC PRIOR ART LIBRARY

### **CALL FOR PARTICIPATION:** ARCHIVAL RESEARCHER NETWORK (ARN)

**Interested parties should complete the interest form here:**

<https://www.portasophia.org/archival-researcher-network>

**Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.**

Porta Sophia means doorway to wisdom. We are a non-profit, curated on-line library that brings together a wealth of scientific, historical and cultural information related to psychedelics that protects technologies in the public domain. We help innovators and patent reviewers find that information, called prior art, with one simple search tool. Our mission is to protect the public domain, stimulate innovation and support good patents to assure psychedelic therapies can one day be available at scale to the people who need them.

## Leveraging Historical Knowledge

In the face of pressing questions about how patents will impact the future of psychedelics and mental health, Porta Sophia is currently seeking participants in our Archival Researcher Network (ARN). The ARN has been developed to help us expand our prior art library by tapping into the expertise of a global network of psychedelic historical researchers to crowdsource relevant prior art. By leveraging historical expertise about psychedelics, our network will help curate and increase access to disparate knowledge of psychedelic science, practice, and tradition in order to make the psychedelic patent landscape more ethical. Ideal participants in the network will have experience with or demonstrated interest in historical research on psychedelics; expertise with archival research is especially welcome.

## What Porta Sophia Does

Since our founding in Spring 2021, the Porta Sophia team has been working hard to fulfill our mission. To build our library, we begin by tracking international and domestic issued and pending patents related to over thirty different psychedelic compounds. We then analyze the breadth of each patent's claims to innovation and evaluate them based on their potential to sequester existing technologies and knowledge in the public domain and block innovation, research, access, and entry into the field (read more about [our patent evaluation process here](#)). From there, we generate prioritized lists of "targets" for prior art search terms (e.g., psilocybin for bipolar I disorder) that, if found, would provide evidence of inaccurate claims to innovation within psychedelic patent applications. Directly

matching research targets to emergent overly broad patent application claims in this way ensures our library maintains high relevance to patent examiners and innovators alike.

In our first round of research, our team searches online databases for these prior art targets. Prior art can take the form of any reference or document that publicly discloses the target, including published manuscripts, previous patents, conference abstracts, digitized archival documents, cultural artifacts, or even a post on a blog. When we find evidence that a patent-derived target is not truly innovative, our team curates the related sources as prior art in easily searchable entries within our library.

For especially high-risk patent applications, we also submit curated prior art directly to patent examiners via [Third-Party Preissuance Submissions](#). These interventions have resulted in significant impact, [summarized in the chart here >](#)

In cases when our initial search processes don't turn up relevant prior art for high-risk patent applications, the Porta Sophia team compiles target lists for crowdsourcing more broadly. This is where the ARN comes in! By engaging in this effort as an ARN participant, you are helping to ensure that our library is relevant, up to date, and inclusive of key archival sources in the history of psychedelics.

## Your Participation in the Archival Researcher Network

This initiative will bring together researchers who have a shared interest in psychedelic history and scholarship, as well as in answering pressing contemporary questions about what the psychedelic space will look like in the future. ARN participants will help combat false claims to innovation at the prior art search stage of the patent prosecution process via a large crowdsourcing effort aimed at compiling archival psychedelic sources.

ARN participants will receive lists of targets for crowdsourcing archival prior art within a quarterly newsletter. In order to support the surfacing of prior art within our network, Porta Sophia is also committed to providing research support and avenues of connection for ARN participants.

**There are a variety of information session recordings available on our YouTube page to orient new ARN participants to the “least you should know” about the following topics:**

- [Patent Law and Prior Art with David Casimir and Thomas Isenbarger](#)
- [Introduction to Porta Sophia with the Data Team - Sisi Li, Shahin Shams, and Amanda Pratt](#)
- [Psychedelic Science with Charles Raison](#)
- [Psychedelic Archival Research with Lucas Richert](#)

We hosted our first ARN-sponsored event in June 2022, and recordings are available on our YouTube page for key programming:

- [Keynote from Priti Krishtel: “Reflections and Predictions: Experiences from the Access to Medicines Movement”](#)
- [Roundtable on Indigenous Knowledge & Patent Law featuring David Casimir, Sutton King, Priti Krishtel, and Tink Tinker; moderated by Graham Pechenik](#)
- [Spotlight talk from David Casimir: “Archival Prior Art: A Mescaline Case Study”](#)

**Possible opportunities for ARN participants moving forward include:**

- Participating in future Porta Sophia-sponsored events (e.g., workshops, webinars, conferences)
- Collaboration with ARN participants on conference panels
- Co-authoring with ARN participants
- Developing funding opportunities for students to work on targeted Porta Sophia projects
- Compensation for open access fees on Porta Sophia related published research
- Research support meetings with Porta Sophia team members
- Group meetings to connect with ARN participants
- Spotlight features on ARN accomplishments within Porta Sophia communications and media

We are also currently accepting applications for Research Grants on a rolling basis to support ARN participants in surfacing prior art. See the [call here](#), and [apply here](#).

We are asking for those interested in participating in the ARN to complete the interest form [here](#), and we will be in touch with you soon after.

You can learn more about us at our website ([portasophia.org](https://portasophia.org)) or for an extended video overview, you can visit this link: <https://vimeo.com/653020399>.

**Links to Relevant Porta Sophia Press:**

- [“From the Archives Back to the Clinic: How Historians of Psychedelics are Protecting the Public Domain”](#) by Chris Elcock
- [“Should Psychedelics be Patented?”](#) by B. David Zarley
- [“Introducing the Archival Researcher Network”](#) by Amanda Pratt
- [“Points Interview: Philipp Rühr, Archival Researcher Network participant”](#) by Amanda Pratt
- Browse media coverage of Porta Sophia on our site: <https://www.portasophia.org/news>

Please share this CFP widely, and reach out to Amanda Rose Pratt ([amanda.pratt@portasophia.org](mailto:amanda.pratt@portasophia.org)) or Sisi Li ([sisi.li@portasophia.org](mailto:sisi.li@portasophia.org)) with any questions or concerns.

**We are excited to have you on board!**

