Department	School of Computing
Supervisors	Prof Diane Rasmussen Pennington and Dr David Haynes
Project Title	An Empirical Analysis of Ethical, High Quality, Open Metadata

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
In this funded PhD, you will work under the supervision of two information scientists who are highly regarded as leaders in the areas of metadata and knowledge organisation. You would be based within the world-leading Social Informatics Research Group at Edinburgh Napier University, which Prof Rasmussen Pennington leads. Generally speaking, you would explore, identify, define, and observe empirically the currently nebulous but increasingly important concept of ethical quality metadata in online contexts. More specifically, you will study metadata in a particular context to be identified in collaboration with your supervisors, for example social media data, library catalogue discovery metadata, or metadata for institutional knowledge management. You will develop a theoretical framework that positions your analysis of that context, including defining the ethical principles related to 'openness' of metadata and how this relates to advancing the sharing of knowledge for the intended users of that data. You will then use that framework to conduct a mixed method data collection and analysis of a sample within the chosen context and conclude with both theoretical and practical implications of your results.

Academic qualifications
A first degree (at least a 2.1) ideally in the humanities or social sciences with a good fundamental knowledge of relevant information professional skills such as information organisation, metadata standards, and library cataloguing.

English language requirement
IELTS score must be at least 6.5 (with not less than 6.0 in each of the four components). Other, equivalent qualifications will be accepted. Full details of the University's policy are available online.

Essential attributes:
- Experience of fundamental library and information science basics.
- Competent in digital literacies that are essential for today's information professionals, including social media, information representation, search and retrieval, and open science.
- Knowledge of basic information organisation approaches, such as Dublin Core, linked data, controlled vocabularies, and ontologies
- Good written and oral communication skills
- Strong motivation, with evidence of independent research skills relevant to the project
- Good time management

Desirable attributes:
An accredited master's degree in library science, information science, knowledge management, or equivalent. Practical experience in the information professions with an interest in applying research to improve professional practice.

Indicative Bibliography	Macgregor, G., Lancho-Barrantes, B. S., & Rasmussen Pennington, D. (2023). Measuring the concept of PID literacy: User perceptions and understanding of PIDs in support of open scholarly infrastructure. *Open Information Science, 7*(1).

	Snow, K., Shoemaker, E., Chan, M., Daniels, J., Furger, S., & Rasmussen Pennington, D. (2022). The development and future of the Cataloguing Code of Ethics. *Cataloging & Classification Quarterly, 60*(8), 786-806. Rasmussen Pennington, D., & Spiteri, L. F. (Eds.) (2018). *Social tagging in a linked data environment*. London: Facet Publishing. Haynes, D. (2018). Metadata for information management and retrieval: Understanding metadata and its use. 2nd ed. London: Facet Publishing.
Enquiries	For informal enquiries about this PhD project, please contact Professor Diane Rasmussen Pennington at d.pennington@napier.ac.uk.
Web page	https://www.napier.ac.uk/research-and-innovation/research-degrees/application-process