

NEH Overview
AASCU
External Funding Conference, Grants Resource Center

Overview of NEH Budget

- NEH's Overall Budget (2009): US \$155 million
- \$26M for administration (salaries, rent)
- \$35M distributed to 56 state and territory-based humanities councils
- Remaining \$94M given out as direct grants to US institutions—particularly to universities, libraries, and museums—and to individual scholars

- **Office of Digital Humanities** – grants to support innovative start-up technology projects, training in digital humanities methods, and collaborative (national / international) technology projects.
- **Office of Challenge Grants** – matching grants for infrastructure (buildings, endowments).
- **Division of Research** – grants to scholars and institutions for research projects (individual & collaborative).
- **Division of Education** – grants for seminars for teachers, curriculum development, & learning resources.
- **Division of Public Programs** – grants for museum exhibits, library programs, & media projects (e.g. documentary films).
- **Division of Preservation & Access** – grants for preserving and providing access to humanities materials; digitization; development of reference materials.

Division of Research



Grants support individuals and teams of scholars pursuing advanced research in the humanities that will contribute to scholarly knowledge or to the general public's understanding of the humanities.

Division of Research



Institutional Grants

Collaborative Research/Scholarly Editions –
Deadline October 2010

Fellowships at Independent Research
Institutions – Deadline August 2010

Division of Research



Individual Grants

Fellowships – Deadline May 4, 2010

Faculty Research Awards – Deadline
April 15, 2010

Teaching Development Fellowships –
Deadline October 1, 2010

Summer Stipends – Deadline October 1,
2010

*Fellowships at Independent Research
Institutions – Deadlines vary by institution

Fellowships & Summer Stipends Criteria

1. The intellectual significance of the proposed project, including its value to scholars and general audiences in the humanities.
2. The quality or promise of quality of the applicant's work as an interpreter of the humanities.
3. The quality of the conception, definition, organization, and description of the project and the applicant's clarity of expression.
4. The feasibility of the proposed plan of work, including, when appropriate, the soundness of the dissemination and access plans.
5. The likelihood that the applicant will complete the project.

Division of Education



Grants to support teachers to strengthen teaching and learning through new or revised curricula and materials, collaborative study, seminars, and institutes.

Division of Education



Teaching Development Fellowships
Deadline: October 2010

Enduring Questions Pilot Course Grants
Deadline: September 2010

Seminars & Institutes
Deadline: March 2011

Landmarks of American History & Culture
Deadline: March 2011

Division of Preservation & Access



Grants to preserve archival holdings; enhance access to materials; and produce reference works for scholarly research, education, and public programming.

Division of Preservation & Access



Humanities Collections & Reference Resources
Research and Development
Deadline: July 2010

- Tool Development
- Reference Materials
- Digitization of Collections

Division of Preservation & Access



Preservation Assistance Grants
May 2010

Education & Training
July 2010

Documenting Endangered Languages
September 2010

National Digital Newspaper Program
November 2010

Division of Public Programs



Grants for the presentation of humanities scholarship for large and diverse public audiences. Grants typically support radio and television documentaries, exhibitions and interpretation of historic sites, reading and discussion series, lectures, symposia, and related components in support of such programs.

Division of Public Programs



America's Historical and Cultural Organizations: Planning and Implementation Grants
Deadline: January and September

America's Media Makers: Development Grants and Production Grants
Deadline: January and September

Interpreting America's Historic Places: Planning and Implementation Grants
Deadline: January and September

Office of Challenge Grants

Deadline: May 2010



- Permanent endowments, supporting ongoing and recurring costs such as salaries, honoraria for visiting scholars, fellowships, and maintenance
- One-time capital costs for items such as facilities equipment, and acquisitions
- Combined in "spend-down" funds that are invested, with both the income and the principal expended over a defined period of years

The screenshot shows the IATH website interface. On the left, there are logos for 'CENTER for HISTORY and NEW MEDIA' and 'IATH The Institute for Advanced Technology in the Humanities'. The main content area displays 'The Walt Whitman Archive' with a search bar and a navigation menu. A portrait of Walt Whitman is visible on the right. At the bottom, the IATH logo and tagline 'an applied think tank for the digital humanities' are shown alongside the MITH logo.

Office of Digital Humanities (ODH)

In 2006, the NEH launched the Digital Humanities Initiative (DHI) to help coordinate efforts in supporting and promoting digital humanities scholarship, teaching, and learning.

In March of 2008, DHI was made into a permanent NEH office under the new name "Office of Digital Humanities" (ODH).

The work of ODH was inspired by feedback from the field, particularly "Our Cultural Commonwealth," the ACLS report on cyberinfrastructure for the humanities.

Recommendations from ACLS Cyberinfrastructure Report

- Federal funding agencies and private foundations should establish programs that develop and support **expertise** in digital humanities... (*Our Cultural Commonwealth*, p. 6.)
- Universities and university consortia should develop new and support existing humanities and social sciences computing **centers**. (p. 6)
- NSF, NEH, IMLS, the Mellon Foundation, and other funding agencies should support the **development of tools** for the analysis of digital content. (p. 7)
- The NEA, NEH, and IMLS should work together to promote **collaboration**.... (p. 7)
- See: www.acls.org/cyberinfrastructure/OurCulturalCommonwealth.pdf

Core ODH Grant Programs

- Start-Up Grants
 - Developing innovative practices (analysis, communication, education)
- Institutes for Advanced Topics in the Digital Humanities
 - Developing expertise
- Collaboration Grants (with JISC and DFG)
 - Developing collaboration
 - Building infrastructure (data, tools, people)
- Digging Into Data
 - Exploring the future of research using digital corpora.

Digital Humanities Start-Up Grants
Deadlines: March & October

- Designed to encourage innovations in the digital humanities.
- Relatively low-dollar grants during the planning stages
 - Level 1: up to \$25,000
 - Proof-of-concept, initial stages, brainstorming
 - Level 2: from \$25,001 to \$50,000
 - Prototyping

Digital Humanities Start-Up Grants
Deadline: March & October

- Research that brings new approaches or documents best practices in the study of the digital humanities.
- Planning and prototyping new digital tools for preserving, analyzing, and making accessible digital resources, including libraries' and museums' digital assets.
- Scholarship that examines the philosophical implications and impact of the use of emerging technologies.
- Innovative uses of technology for scholarly communication, including formal and informal learning, as well as new models of publication.

Start-Up Examples



"The Crowded Page" – The University of Nebraska, Lincoln, is developing datamining and visualization tools to detail and map relationships in communities of artists and writers within specific geographic and temporal locations.

"InPhO: the Indiana Philosophy Ontology Project" – Indiana University, Bloomington is developing software to automate searching, navigating, and representing the connections between philosophical ideas, scholars, and works within the *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*.



Recent SUG Awards for AASCU Members

- **Mapping Historical Texts: Combining Text-mining & Geovisualization to Unlock the Research Potential of Historical Newspapers**
University of North Texas -- Denton, TX; Andrew Torget, Project Director

Development of text-mining and visualization tools to study movement of information through time and space by analyzing digitized texts of historical newspapers from the NEH-funded Chronicling America archive.

- **Building a Better Back-End: Editor, Author, & Reader Tools for Scholarly Multimedia**
Illinois State University; Cheryl Ball, Project Director

Development of an open source editorial management system and reader tools for online publication of scholarly multimedia and related forms of digital scholarship for use with Open Journal System (OJS), a widely used editorial management system.

Recent SUG Awards for AASCU Members

- **BRILLESC.ORG**
University of South Carolina, Upstate; George Williams, Project Director

The collection of additional oral histories, the preparation of pedagogical materials, and further development of additional accessibility features to a humanities website to allow for enhanced visitor experiences for visually-impaired users.

- **ScholarPress**
George Mason University

The development of three tools that will aid in the dissemination of research and teaching materials for humanities scholars.

Institutes for Advanced Topics in the Digital Humanities
 Deadline: February 2011

- Supports **national or regional (multi-state) training programs** on applications and approaches in humanities computing
- Brings together **humanities scholars and digital technology specialists from different disciplines** to share ideas and methods that advance humanities research through the use of digital technologies
- **Prepares current and future generations of humanities scholars** to design, develop, and use cyber-based tools and environments for research

One Week, One Tool: A Digital Humanities Barn Raising
 Tom Scheinfeldt, George Mason University

- A one week institute for twelve participants on the principles of humanities-centered tool design, development, and implementation, followed by a year of development support.

Network Analysis for the Humanities
 Timothy Tangherlini, UCLA

- A ten-day workshop and follow-up symposium for humanities faculty members and advanced graduate students on the use of large-scale network analysis for humanities topics and questions.

Humanities Gaming Institute: Serious Games for Research and Pedagogy
 Duncan Buell, University of South Carolina

- A three-week institute on the role of immersive, interactive technologies and games within the context of the humanities, with a year of follow-up support for the twenty participants.


Institute for Enabling Geospatial Scholarship
 Bethany Nowviskie, UVA

- Two institutes, aimed at scholars, librarians, museum officials, and advanced graduate students, to explore how geospatial technologies like Geographic Information Systems (GIS) can be used for teaching, learning, and research in the humanities.




Website: www.diggingintodata.org

- Seeks to answer the question: "What do you do with a million books?"
- Apply data analysis techniques to large collections of diverse cultural heritage resources
- An international grant competition sponsored by four leading research agencies: JISC, NEH, NSF, SSHRC (perhaps additional ones in the future)
- Applications must be submitted by teams of researchers involving at least two of the countries represented by the funders



DIGGING INTO DATA CHALLENGE


- Railroads and the Making of Modern America—Tools for Spatio-Temporal Correlation, Analysis, and Visualization
 - Awardees: William Thomas, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, NEH; Richard Healey, University of Portsmouth, JISC
 - Description: This project will integrate a vast collection of textual, geographical and numerical data to allow for the visual presentation of the railroads and its impact on society over time, concentrating initially on the Great Plains and Northeast United States.
- Towards Dynamic Variorum Editions
 - Awardees: Gregory Crane, Tufts University, NEH; John Darlington, Imperial College, London, JISC; Bruce Robertson, Mount Allison University, SSHRC.
 - Description: The creation of a framework to produce "dynamic variorum" editions of classics texts that enable the reader to automatically link not only to variant editions but also to relevant citations, quotations, people, and places that are found in a digital library of over one million primary and secondary source texts.



DFG-NEH Bilateral Digital Humanities

Deadline: November 16, 2010

- Partnership with German funder DFG.
- Designed to spur collaborations between US and German institutions to explore topics in the digital humanities. Applicants must apply as a team.
- Initiating or intensifying contact between distinguished scholars, junior researchers, scientists, librarians, information professionals, and others working on humanities projects.
- Both planning and implementation grants are available.



DFG/NEH Projects

- *The "Big Digs" Go Digital* (American School of Classical Studies at Athens and the German Archaeological Institute), on the application of digital technologies to better preserve, study, and make accessible the data from large-scale, long-term archaeological digs.
- *Digital Music Notation Data Model and Prototype Delivery System* (University of Virginia and Universities of Paderborn and Detmold), on developing methods, standards, and software for a scholarly music notation system.

Office of Digital Humanities www.neh.gov/odh



Library of Funded Projects & White Papers



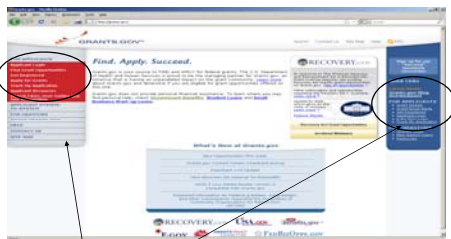
Information about Application and Review

How do I apply?

Step One: visit the NEH website (www.neh.gov) and READ THE GUIDELINES



Step 2: Visit Grants.gov (with your Office of Sponsored Research)



Register!!!!

-Find out your AOR
-Get comfortable with the Grants.gov system.

- Step Three: get samples and/or ask questions
- Step Four: draft your application and get someone to read it.
- Step Five: submit your application by the deadline and wait...these things take time.

Hallmarks of a Good Application

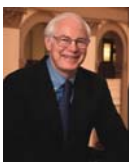
- Why is your project good for the humanities? You must make your case.
- Write for an intelligent, but general audience. Don't assume all the people reading it are experts in your field.
- Make sure you address other projects doing similar work. Compare and contrast your work to theirs, if appropriate.

Hallmarks (cont).

- Collaboration is a good thing. Explain what each partner brings to the project; why are you stronger for working as a team?
- When technology is involved, we like to see technologists as an integral part of your team. Computer scientists are not plumbers to be called in only when needed; a good digital humanities project is often one where multiple disciplines (including CS or IT) are all working together to reach a common goal.

NEH Stages of Review

- Staff Checks for Eligibility
- Peer Review Panels
- The National Council on the Humanities
- The Chairman- Jim Leach



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A Few Points about Panels

- We use panels for all grant competitions (some “mail out” and some “sitting”).
- We change panels each year. Panelists are not allowed to serve on panels in consecutive years.
- We sort applications into groups by topic and discipline. In doing so, we take the applicant’s selected discipline into account but might move it.
- We work to put applications onto panels where each will receive the most sympathetic and generous reading.
- The size of panels varies depending on program and the distribution of topics in any set of applications.

Improve your chances of success

- Get a “why” or “why-not” letter with verbatim comments made by the panelists
- Ask the staff to comment on a draft application
- Become a panelist or reviewer
- Read applications for your institution
- Panelists will only know you’re applying again if you tell them
- Explore all of your funding options (within NEH and elsewhere)

Remember...we're here to help



Contact Information:

General e-mail address: odh@neh.gov
Website: www.neh.gov/odh



Add the ODH Update RSS feed to your favorite reader

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