



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

DIVISION OF RESEARCH PROGRAMS

FELLOWSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS FOR DIGITAL PUBLICATION

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Updated January 3, 2024

A. Program Description

1. Can I apply for an award lasting less than six months or more than twelve months?

No. The period of performance for Fellowships ranges from six to twelve months. The period of performance must be **full-time** and **continuous**. Applications requesting a period of performance shorter than six months or longer than twelve months will not be considered.

2. Can I change the period of performance of my fellowship if I receive an award?

Yes. You will be able to specify the start date of your Fellowship after you have been offered an award. This date can differ from the date specified in your application. For Fellowships, you can start any time between 1 January 2025 and 1 September 2026; for the Fellowships for Digital Publication, you may start any time between 1 January 2025 and 1 September 2025. You cannot lengthen your period of performance, but you can shorten it to a minimum of six months. Fellowships are \$5,000 per month, so if you reduce your grant period, the total amount of funding is also reduced. Grant periods may be whole months only and must start on the first of the month. NEH cannot delay the period of performance beyond the stated timelines of this NOFO to accommodate overlapping individual awards. You must request NEH approval to change your period of performance.

3. My project is a [database, edition, memoir, etc.], is it eligible for this program?

Section D. 6 of the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for each program includes a list of products that are unallowable for funding. They vary by funding opportunity and can change from previous years, so you should check the current list to ensure your project is allowed.

4. Does NEH support projects whose results will be written in a language other than English?

Yes. Applicants must provide a rationale for projects that will be written in a language other than English. The application itself must be written in English.

5. Does NEH restrict how I can spend the fellowship?

No. Fellowship awards are stipends paid directly to individuals. The stipends function as salary replacement and are designed to buy you time for your project. You may use your award to pay for anything you need to conduct approved project activities as outlined in your work plan. You will not submit an itemized budget or receipts, and you will not submit a financial report.

B. Application and Submission Information

1. How important is the format of the application (including appendices)?

Applications must follow the format provided in the NOFO. Applications that violate the format instructions, including page limits, will not be considered.

2. Are there required attachments?

In the Fellowships program, one-page attachments are conditionally required for editions, translations, database projects, and for visual projects.

In addition, applications for Fellowships for Digital Publications require one attachment showing the form of the proposed digital publication in wireframes, sitemaps, or screen shots. If your project involves studying a living community, such as a tribal community, religious group, or minority community, the program also suggests that you include a letter of support from a community member demonstrating that they know about your project.

Check the “Application Component Table” in each Notice of Funding Opportunity for a full list of potential attachments. This table will tell you if they are “required,” “conditionally required,” or “suggested.”

3. What help is available for preparing the application?

NEH staff are able to answer questions about preparing your application and your eligibility. Staff may be reached at (202) 606-8200 and at fellowships@neh.gov. Because of the large number of applications received in the Fellowships program, NEH staff members are not able to comment on draft applications.

NEH staff will read draft applications for Fellowships for Digital Publication. See section D4. “Submission dates and times” in the NOFO for details.

Applicants are encouraged to review the samples of previously funded applications, which are available on the main webpages for Fellowships and [Fellowships for Digital Publication](#). Lists of recent awards in each program are also available on these pages.

For each of the programs, there will be an informational webinar before the application deadlines. Dates and recordings are on the programs’ websites.

4. What technical support is available if I have trouble using Grants.gov or submitting the application?

Grants.gov operates a help desk. You can request technical support by sending email to support@grants.gov or calling 1-800-518-4726.

5. How should I title my application? Does NEH change project titles?

Your title should be descriptive of the project, substantive, and free of specialized language. It should be easily understood by the general public. Omit technical terms, jargon, and unfamiliar words. The title may not exceed 125 characters (including spaces and punctuation). Your NEH project title does not necessarily have to be the same as the title of your proposed publication. Avoid using a main title that requires clarification by the subtitle. For example, “A History of Counterfeiting in the U.S., 1776-1900” is clearer than “Fakes and Fakers: A History of Counterfeiting in the U.S., 1776-1900.”

When possible, include places and dates indicating a project’s scope. For example, “Faith and Belief among New York City Catholics, 1945-1970” is clearer than “Faith and Belief in the Catholic Community.”

NEH reserves the right to re-title funded projects that do not follow agency guidelines. Award recipients, however, are permitted to use their preferred title for any award products.

6. Is it possible to extend the deadline?

No. Late applications will not be reviewed, except in the rare cases covered by NEH’s [policy on late submissions](#).

C. Application Review Information

1. How will my application be reviewed?

All applications receive peer review. More details about NEH’s review process are available in section E2. of the NOFO and [here](#).

2. Can I see the evaluators' comments after the competition?

Yes. The notification you receive about the decision made on your application will contain instructions for requesting the evaluators' comments. If your application is unsuccessful, the comments may help you revise it for resubmission. Even if your application is successful, we encourage you to request evaluator comments as they may help inform the project.

3. I applied for a fellowship last year and my application was unsuccessful. Will I be at a disadvantage if I reapply?

No. NEH encourages previous applicants to revise their applications and reapply. NEH recruits different reviewers from year to year and does not inform reviewers that a particular application was previously unsuccessful.

D. Additional information on Fellowships for Digital Publication

1. I am working on a digital publication. Am I required to apply to the Fellowships for Digital Publication opportunity?

Both programs support digital projects, but we do encourage you to apply to the Fellowships for Digital Publication, if your project requires digital expression and publication to be fully realized ("born digital"). This might include multimedia work with video, images, data visualizations, or sound files integrated into the argument, or work that requires flexible reading pathways, interactivity, or other digital features not possible in print. (Note: stand-alone databases are not eligible products, see question A3 above).

The 2024 deadline will be the final deadline for this program.

2. Are Fellowships for Digital Publication applications reviewed the same way as NEH Fellowships applications?

Applications will be judged by similar criteria and held to the same standards of scholarly excellence. Applications to Fellowships for Digital Publication will be evaluated by panels of scholars who are knowledgeable about digital methods and digital publications. The deadline for this program is one week after the deadline for NEH Fellowships.

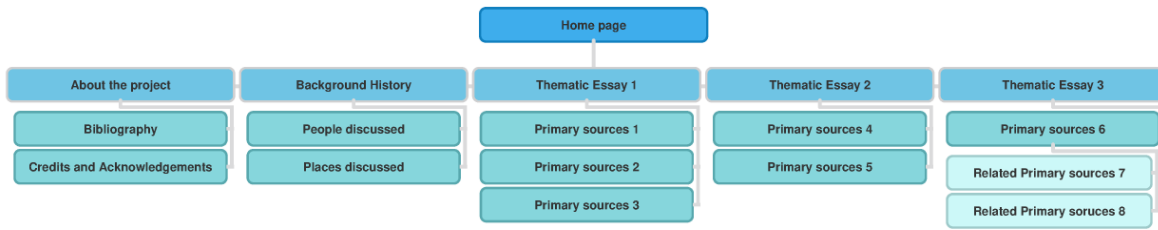
3. One of the required attachments in this program is a "Description of the digital project design." Options include a site map, a wireframe, or annotated screenshots. What is this for?

The purpose of this attachment is to provide evaluators with an explanation of the significant features of your proposed project and how they will be arranged. You must include a site map, a wireframe, or annotated screenshots of an extant prototype, or any combination of the three. The attachment must be a single PDF and cannot exceed 3 pages.

Site map

A site map is a human-readable diagram that helps convey how pages in a website are related to each other: for example, showing how they connect and are organized. Do not provide an XML sitemap.

Example: a generic site map.

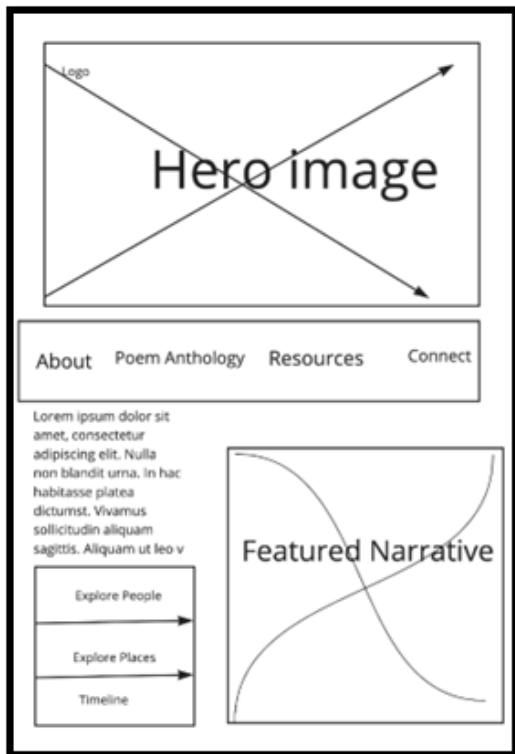


Wireframe

A wireframe, also known as a page schematic or screen blueprint, provides a visual guide for the website, indicating the placement of images and links.

Wireframe examples can be made using online tools, or simply by sketching on a piece of paper (known as “low fidelity” wireframing). This example is medium fidelity. Any level of fidelity is acceptable. If you choose to include a wireframe, we recommend including wireframes of the major pages of your site, for example the landing page and any significant subpages. To avoid going over the mandatory page limit, you may wish to select the most representative parts of your project to wireframe or include more than one wireframe on a PDF page.

Example: a generic wireframe of a home page.



4. I am working on developing a website to accompany a book. Should I apply for a Fellowship for Digital Publication?

This depends on the balance between the digital and the print elements of your project.

Fellowships for Digital Publication encourages those scholars who are working on projects that can only be carried out through digital publication. If the main argument is in your digital element and your digital project is simply accompanied by a print component, your project may be competitive in this program. However, digital “side projects” or “digital appendices” for a print book, such as a website with extra media content but no argument, fall outside the goals for this opportunity.

5. I am working on creating an interactive digital publication as a revision of an existing print publication or dissertation. Should I apply for support through the Fellowships for Digital Publication program?

Yes, if you can demonstrate that the new digital publication will significantly extend or revise the previous argument in a way that can only be done digitally. Simply putting previous scholarship online would be less competitive. Your application should clearly explain the differences between the new project and the previous printed version.

6. I am working on a print publication and would like to offer it as an e-book as well. Should I apply to the Fellowships for Digital Publication program?

No. Printed books and their e-book equivalents are not supported by this program. If the research for your print book was supported by an NEH grant, you could instead contact your publisher with information about the [Fellowships Open Book Program](#). The Fellowships Open Book Program allows publishers to apply for funds to convert existing books to open access e-book publications and includes a royalty for the author.