

DIGITAL HUMANITIES ADVANCEMENT GRANT PROGRAM WEBINAR

National Endowment for the Humanities
Office of Digital Humanities
Webinar for 2021 Funding Cycle



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES

TOPICS COVERED

- Digital Humanities
Advancement Grant priorities
& Stats
- Deadlines & Eligibility
- Planning your application
- Review criteria
- Resources
- Application & review process
- Key dates
- Contact information

DIGITAL HUMANITIES
ADVANCEMENT GRANTS
(DHAG)

Partnership with
[Institute of Museum and Library Services](#) (link)

Projects that lead to innovative work that can scale to enhance scholarly research, teaching, and public programming in the humanities.

Program Priorities:

- creating or enhancing experimental, computationally-based methods, techniques, or infrastructure that contribute to the humanities
- pursuing scholarship that examines the history, criticism, and philosophy of digital culture or technology and its impact on society;
- conducting evaluative studies that investigate the practices and the impact of digital scholarship on research, pedagogy, scholarly communication, or public engagement.

DHAG STATS

2017-2020 DHAGS

- 114 awards
- Funding percentage: 12% avg
- [Search for DHAG Awards in the NEH public database](#)
- [Read white papers from past ODH awards](#)

2021 Awards

- Funding: approx \$2 million per deadline
- Awards: 12-15

DEADLINES & ELIGIBILITY

DHAG Deadlines:

January 15, 2021

June 24, 2021

Eligibility (NOFO p. 4):

- US & territorial institutions **only**
- Non-US institutions ineligible as sub-awardees
 - Project directors and Co-Project Directors may only submit 1 DHAG application per deadline.
- Individuals may apply for [fellowships in the NEH'S Research Division](#)

IS THIS PROJECT A DHAG?

Digital projects are funded across the NEH:

[Which program fits my digital project?](#)

(link)

Since creation of ODH in 2007, complementary grant programs have expanded while others emerged across the NEH to support digital work.

- Division of Education
- Division of Preservation and Access
- Division of Public Programs
- Division of Research
- Office of Challenge Grants

ACTIVITIES WE DO NOT FUND

Detailed in the NOFO pp 25-26:

- projects that mainly involve digitization, unless the applicant is proposing an innovative method for digitization;
- the creation or conversion of a scholarly journal (although the implementation of new modes of scholarly publication is permitted);
- Undergraduate or graduate course development;
- recurring maintenance costs that would support only the day-to-day operations of existing projects rather than substantive changes or upgrades;
- projects that fall outside of the humanities; the creation or performance of art; creative writing, memoirs, and creative nonfiction; and empirically based social science research or policy studies.
- promotion of a particular political, religious, or ideological point of view; advocacy for a particular program of social or political action; support of specific public policies or legislation; and lobbying

LEVELS OF FUNDING & PROJECT STAGE

Level I: up to \$50,000 ≤ 24 months

Level II: \$50,001 to \$100,000 ≤ 24 months

Level III: \$100,001 to \$325,000 ≤ 36 months

Level IIIs only: \$50,000 available with third-party matching funds

Level I: small projects that are experimental, that involve research, convenings, or planning sessions including planning to revitalize older DH projects. ([Read some tips for writing a strong Level I application.](#))

Level II: projects that have completed a planning or exploratory phase and will develop working prototypes or code, sample data sets or models, methodological workflows, and/or documentation by the end of the grant period.

Level III: scaling up and expanding established projects with a demonstrated track record of success and strong user community or demand for the project's outputs.

PLANNING: START WITH THE DHAG RESOURCE PAGE

The NOFO is formerly known as
the application “guidelines.”

DHAG Program Resource Page: Everything you need!

Step 1

Review your application package

Begin by reading the Notice of Funding Opportunity. You want to ensure you understand all the expectations and restrictions for projects delivered under this program and are prepared to write the most effective application.

Download Application Materials

[Digital Humanities Advancement Grants Notice of Funding Opportunity 2021 \(PDF\)](#)

[Grants.gov application package for Digital Humanities Advancement Grants](#)

Program Resources

[Digital Humanities Advancement Grants Frequently Asked Questions \(PDF\)](#)

[List of recent awards in this program](#)

Sample Application Narratives

Level I

- [University of Georgia, Freedom's Movement: Mapping African American Space in War and Reconstruction](#)
- [Ball State University, Library Circulation Histories Workshop](#)
- [Shift Design, Redesigning Historypin for Open-Source Digital Humanities](#)
- [University of Virginia, The Development of Digital Documentary Editing Platforms](#)

Level II

Grant Snapshot

Maximum award amount: Level I: \$50,000

Level II: \$100,000

Level III: \$325,000 in outright funds, with an additional \$50,000 in matching funds

Open to: Organizations

Expected output: Article; Digital Material and Publication; Workshop; Report; Teaching Resources;

Digital Infrastructure; Software

Period of performance: Up to thirty-six months

Application available: September 11, 2020

Optional Draft due: December 1, 2020

Application due: January 15, 2021

Expected notification date: August 31, 2021

Project start date: September 1, 2021

Contact the Office of Digital Humanities Team
odh@neh.gov

Applicants who are deaf or hard of hearing can contact NEH via
Federal Relay (TTY users) at 800-877-8399

<http://neh.gov/grants/odh/digital-humanities-advancement-grants>

READ NOFO FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS

All application materials must be received by the application deadline. Late, incomplete, or ineligible applications will not be considered for funding under this notice. Applications that exceed specified page limits will not be reviewed. See the [Application Components Table](#).

D. Application and Submission Information

1. Application Package

You are required to apply online through [Grants.gov Workspace](#) using the Standard Form 424 (SF-424) application package associated with the funding opportunity and following the instructions provided by Grants.gov unless otherwise noted below.

To request a paper copy of this announcement, contact odh@neh.gov. Applicants who are deaf or hard of hearing (TTY users) can contact NEH via Federal Relay at 800-877-8399.

2. Content and Form of Application Submission

Your application will consist of a narrative, budget, budget justification, and other required forms and components described below.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Application Components Table
pp 17-18 in the NOFO
Note page limits & requirements

Application component	Naming convention	Page limits	Notes
SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance - Short Organizational	Not applicable (Grants.gov form)		Required
Supplementary Cover Sheet for NEH Grant Programs	Not applicable (Grants.gov form)		Required

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Project/Performance Site(s) Location Form	Not applicable (Grants.gov form)		Required
Research and Related Budget Attachments Form	Not applicable (Grants.gov form)		Required
Certification Regarding Lobbying Standard Form—LLL “Disclosure of Lobbying Activities”	Not applicable (Grants.gov form)		Conditionally required
Attachment 1: List of participants	participants.pdf		Required
Attachment 2: Narrative	narrative.pdf	Level I: 4 pages Level II: 6 pages Level III: 8 pages	Required
Attachment 3: Work plan	workplan.pdf	3 pages	Required
Attachment 4: Biographies	biographies.pdf	1 paragraph per person	Required
Attachment 5: Data management plan	datamanagement.pdf	2 pages	Required
Attachment 6: Sustainability plan	sustainability.pdf	3 pages	Required for Level III applicants
Attachment 7: Appendices	appendices.pdf	10 pages	Optional
Attachment 8: Letters of commitment	letters.pdf		Optional
Attachment 9: Federally negotiated indirect cost rate agreement	agreement.pdf		Conditionally required

NARRATIVE & ATTACHMENTS

Check with your institutional research or development office about internal deadlines & requirements before you begin application.

Use the application pieces to build your argument

Narrative (attachment 2)

- Enhancing the Humanities
- Environmental Scan
- History of the Project
- Activities and Project Team
- Final Products & Dissemination

Work Plan (attachment 3)

Biographies of key project staff (attachment 4)

Data Management Plan (attachment 5)

Sustainability Plan (attachment 6 Level IIIs only)

Budget—forms in Grants.gov

REVIEW CRITERIA & PROPOSAL PLANNING

Read these 3 blog posts on planning a DHAG:

[Post 1](#) (link)

[Post 2](#) (link)

[Post 3](#) (link)

Craft proposal pieces to Review Criteria

NARRATIVE GUIDANCE

To ensure that you fully address the review criteria, this table provides a crosswalk between the narrative language and where each section falls within the review criteria.

<u>Narrative Section</u>	<u>Review Criteria</u>
Enhancing the humanities	1
Environmental scan	2
History of the project	2
Activities and project team	3, 4 and 5
Final products and dissemination	1 and 3

Find Review Criteria pp. 26-27 NOFO

I. The intellectual significance & impact of the project for the humanities

What is your big idea?
Who is your targeted audience?
What is the innovation in your project?

- Convince reviewers that your project advances digital methodologies and workflows.
- Describe your experimentation & innovation for the humanities.
- Define users or audiences – it probably isn't everyone!
- Discuss the impact your project will have.
- Identify ways of making the grant products available beyond the funded activities through outreach activities, open access publications, or free and open-source software.

2. The quality of the overall conception, organization, and description of how the proposed work sits within a broader context, and quality of the argument for new (or further) work in this area

How does this project fit within the broader body of humanities & digital humanities scholarship?

Have you clearly justified the need for this project?

- Write for colleagues who know nothing about your work or DH—clearly define technical terms & methods; avoid subject-area jargon and esoteric language.
- Justify your decisions to build something, to convene, or to experiment with specific methods or tools.
- Assess other projects in this area of practice to situate this proposed work, don't merely list them.

3. The feasibility & appropriateness of the activities, work plan, methodology, and use of technology, and the project's plans for mitigating risk and addressing accessibility for its intended audiences

Have you set realistic goals to accomplish in the period of performance?

How are you addressing risks involved in tackling this project? (risk is okay!)

- Provide concrete information about what you're going to do, how you will do it and who will do the work.
- Describe your methods and technology choices for doing the work.
- Talk about the risks involved in this project, include staff attrition or travel restrictions.

4. The qualifications, expertise, and levels of commitment of the project director and key project staff or contributors

Do you have the right team in place to accomplish the work?

Does the budget reflect the commitments?

- Describe the roles and responsibilities for all project team members.
- Describe how the project will support & benefit all staff.
- Write biographies that identify individuals' experiences and skills that prepare them to do the work assigned to them.

5. The reasonableness of the proposed budget in relation to the proposed activities, staff compensation, the anticipated results, products, and dissemination

Have you adequately allocated staff and resources to accomplish proposed tasks?

- Budget appropriately for staff time required to complete tasks identified.
- Match project activities with appropriate level requested.
- Use the budget justification to discuss contributions not compensated with grant funds.
- Explain any institutional policies related to wages, student pay, or allowable time for project directors and staff in the budget justification.

6. The quality and appropriateness of project plans for data management and (if applicable) sustainability

How will you manage your data and/or plan for sustaining your project?

[Sample Data Management Plans](#) (link, scroll to bottom of page)

- Consult with librarians, data specialists, or preservationists at your institution about managing data and sustainable practices.
- Identify who is responsible for implementing pieces of the data management and sustainability activities.
- Identify where any data produced will be stored and made available after funding ends.
- For Level IIIs: Provide evidence of institutional commitment to the project and its assets. Discuss the project's lifecycle.

APPLICATION COMPONENTS & CRITERIA

NOFO, pp 21-24 includes full list of
all attachments & descriptions of
their content

Narrative (Attachment 2):

- Enhancing the Humanities: 1
- Environmental Scan: 2
- History of the Project: 2
- Activities and Project Team: 3, 4, and 5
- Final Product and Dissemination: 1 and 3

New Work Plan (Attachment 3): 3,4, and 5

Biographies (Attachment 4): 4

Data Management Plan (Attachment 5): 6

Sustainability Plan, Level IIIs (Attachment 6): 6

Appendices (Attachment 7): multiple criteria

Letters of Commitment (Attachment 8): 4

New Budget is a Grants.gov form : 5

RESOURCES

[DHAG Program Resource Page \(link\)](#)

[Sample Applications](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Blog Posts \(link\)](#)

Sample Application Narratives

Level I

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- [Ball State University, Library Circulation Histories Workshop](#)
- [Shift Design, Redesigning Historypin for Open-Source Digital Humanities](#)
- [University of Virginia, The Development of Digital Documentary Editing Platforms](#)

Level II

- [Temple University, Developing the Data Set of Nineteenth-Century Knowledge](#)
- [University of Richmond, Distant Viewing Toolkit \(DVT\) for the Cultural Analysis of Moving Images](#)
- [College of William and Mary, Transkribus and the Georgian Papers Programme Tabular-Formatted Manuscripts](#)
- [James Madison University, Circulating American Magazines, Level II Grant](#)

Level III

- [South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, SnowVision: A Machine Learning-Based Image Processing Tool for the Study of Archaeological Collections](#)
- [St. John's University, Ensuring Access to Endangered and Inaccessible Manuscripts](#)

Most Recent from the Office of Digital Humanities

Blog

Planning your next DHAG:
Idea, Audience, Innovation,
Context

November 4, 2019

Blog

Planning Your Digital
Humanities Advancement
Grant 2: Activities, People, &
Costs for Doing the Work

November 4, 2019

Blog

Planning 3: Managing and
Sustaining the Project Assets

November 4, 2019

TIPS & REMINDERS

Apps that do not adhere to program requirements (incl page limits), are late or incomplete will not be reviewed.

- Write clearly and concisely for a general audience.
- Avoid jargon & overly technical language.
- Remember, this is the NEH—humanities significance is always key.
- Design a feasible project with a reasonable budget – this is public \$\$!
- Demonstrate knowledge of the field—you might be new to DH, but DH isn't new.
- Don't skimp on the data management plan—reviewers notice.
- Be realistic about the lifecycle of a project.

REVIEW PROCESS

Decision notifications:
6-7 months after submission date

- Review for eligibility & completeness
- Peer review & panel meeting
 - Panelists have 6-8 weeks to evaluate, then meet to discuss
- Staff make recommendations after peer review process complete
- National Humanities Council review recommendations
 - Meetings in March, July, November
- NEH Chairman Jon Parrish Peede makes final decisions on awards
- Applicants notified

KEY DATES

App Deadlines	Draft Deadlines	Notifications	Start Dates
January 15, 2021 11:59 pm Eastern	December 1, 2020	August 2021	September 2021
June 24, 2021 11:59 pm Eastern	May 5, 2021	December 2021	January 2022

CONTACT ODH

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