DANGERS & OPPORTUNITIES OF TECHNOLOGY: PERSPECTIVES FROM THE HUMANITIES

Deadlines: October 11, 2023 | September 12, 2024

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Agenda

1. Review program goals & possible activities funded through DOT
2. Deadlines & Eligibility
3. Planning your application
4. Review criteria
5. Application & review process
6. Resources & Contact information
DOT program

Supports humanistic research that examines the relationship between technology and society.

We define “technology” broadly.

Projects may examine current social and cultural issues that are significantly shaped by technology, including the ethical, legal, and societal implications of AI.
Possible areas for research:

• climate change
• racial justice
• social media, disinformation, and the democratic process
• medical technologies
• wealth inequality
• data privacy and ethics of algorithms or AI
• cryptocurrencies and nonfungible tokens (NFTs)
• supply chains and infrastructure
• educational technologies
• streaming economy (e.g., music, television, film)
DOT may fund:

- course releases
- research assistance
- research travel
- community partner participation
- conducting studies or interviews
- planning & hosting field-wide convenings
- data collection and analysis
- experiments or prototyping
- development or production of articles, books, web sites, or other forms of intellectual output
DOT does not fund:

- undergraduate or graduate course development (other opportunities)
- projects in which more than 2/3 of direct costs are for equipment, materials, and supplies (such as to outfit a digital humanities lab or makerspace)
- promotion of a particular political, religious, or ideological point of view
- advocacy of a particular program of social or political action
- support of specific public policies or legislation
- lobbying
- projects that fall outside of the humanities & humanistic social sciences; performance of art; creative writing, autobiographies, memoirs, and creative nonfiction; policy studies.
What are the humanities?

"The term 'humanities' includes, but is not limited to, the study and interpretation of the following: language, both modern and classical; linguistics; literature; history; jurisprudence; philosophy; archaeology; comparative religion; ethics; the history, criticism and theory of the arts; those aspects of the social sciences which have humanistic content and employ humanistic methods; and the study and application of the humanities to the human environment with particular attention to reflecting our diverse heritage, traditions, and history and to the relevance of the humanities to the current conditions of national life."

--National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act, 1965, as amended

[https://www.neh.gov/about](https://www.neh.gov/about)
Eligibility

Applications accepted from US institutions:
- 501-C3 non-profits
- Colleges & universities
- State or local governments
- Federally recognized Native American Tribal government

All orgs need active SAM.gov registrations.

Project Directors may only submit 1 app/deadline.

Graduate students may not serve as PDs.

You may not request funds for same activities in more than one federal grant application.

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Funding Categories

• Projects led by a single researcher:
  up to $75,000

• Projects led by collaborative teams: two or more project directors
  up to $150,000

All projects: funding up to 2 years
Dangers and Opportunities of Technology: Perspectives from the Humanities

Office of Digital Humanities

The Dangers and Opportunities of Technology: Perspectives from the Humanities (DOT) program supports research that examines technology and its relationship to society through the lens of the humanities, with a focus on the dangers and/or opportunities presented by technology. NEH is particularly interested in projects that examine the role of technology in shaping current social and cultural issues.

The DOT program is part of the NEH’s American Tapestry initiative.

The program support projects led individual researchers (up to $75K) and by collaborative teams (up to $150K).
Notice of Funding Opportunity = Guidelines

Step 1
Review your application package

Read the Notice of Funding Opportunity to ensure you understand the expectations and restrictions for projects delivered under this grant and are prepared to write the most effective application.

Application Materials

- Dangers and Opportunities of Technology: Perspectives from the Humanities Notice of Funding Opportunity, October 2023
- Dangers and Opportunities of Technology: Perspectives from the Humanities Grants.gov application package

Program Resources

- Dangers and Opportunities of Technology: Perspectives from the Humanities Frequently Asked Questions updated July 2023 (PDF)
- List of resources for all applicants to the Office of Digital Humanities

• Read NOFO for all requirements
• Follow prompts for what we ask for in the Narrative, Work Plan, & other attachments.
Apply in grants.gov

- Select package based on who is applying (single researcher or collaborative teams)
- Research/grants office applies on your behalf (with login.gov account).
- All forms available, attachments uploaded here for submission.
• Note page limits & requirements
• Check with your institutional research or development office about internal deadlines & requirements before you begin applications.
Narrative (Attachment 2)
Significance and contribution: 1
Environmental Scan & Project history: 1
Activities and Research Team: 2, 3, & 4
Final Products and Dissemination: 1, 2, & 4

Work Plan (Attachment 3): 2 & 4

Biographies (Attachment 4): 3

Appendices (Attachment 5): multiple criteria

Letters of Commitment (Attachment 6): 3

Budget + Justification (Grants.gov form): 4
• Is the work described aligned with the purpose of the DOT program to support humanistic research that explores the relationship between technology and society?

• What is the potential of the proposed activities and outcomes to enhance understanding of current social and cultural issues affected by technology?

• Are the research questions and outcomes clearly described and appropriate?

• Is there a demonstrated need for or interest in additional work on the proposed topic?

• Are the dissemination and outreach plans appropriate to reach the identified audiences and communities?

Review Criterion 1:

The intellectual significance and impact of the project for the humanities

Aligns with Narrative sections:
• Significance and contribution
• Environmental scan and project history
• Final product and dissemination
Review Criterion 2:

The quality of the conception, organization, and feasibility of the methodology, activities, and work plan.

- How compelling is the plan for implementing the proposed activities?
- Are the proposed activities and timeline realistic?
- Are appropriate project personnel assigned to complete specific tasks in the workplan?
- Are the proposed methods appropriate for the project goals?
- How appropriate are the project’s plans to ethically conduct research?
- If applicable, how appropriate are the project’s plans to manage data collected?
Review Criterion 3:

The qualifications, expertise, and levels of commitment of the project director(s) and key project staff or contributors

• Do project director(s) and, if applicable, the members of the project team, have the appropriate background and experiences to accomplish the proposed activities and to address the needs of the intended audiences?

• Is the project director(s) and/or the team prepared to execute and complete the goals and outcomes outlined in the narrative?

• If applicable, will team members be adequately credited for their contributions to the project?

• Are early career or contingent staff, students, or interns receiving adequate mentorship or professional development opportunities?

• Narrative sections:
  • Activities and Research Team

• Attachment 4: Biographies

• Attachment 6: Letters of Commitment (for projects led by collaborative teams)
Review Criterion 4:

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

• Does the budget align with the project’s overarching goals and specific planned activities?

• Are adequate resources allocated for project staff, relative to the accompanying tasks?

• If contingent staff, students, or interns are involved in the project, are there mechanisms to ensure their efforts are compensated appropriately?

• If the project includes third parties (i.e., subrecipients, contractors, or consultants), how will the lead institution manage any project deliverables beyond the period of performance?
**Reminders:**

Read NOFO. Follow directions. Include all required pieces. Adhere to page limits.

No late apps accepted—start early!

CVs not accepted.

For projects led by teams: Co-PDs must submit letters of commitment.

**Tips:**

Write clearly and concisely—avoid jargon & overly technical language.

Ask someone outside of your field to read a draft.

Demonstrate how your work can make an impact.

Propose to share your results widely.

Design a feasible project with a reasonable budget – this is public $$!
After Deadlines:
• NEH reviews for eligibility & completeness
• Divide into panels, recruit panelists.
• Peer review & panel meeting—6 weeks to evaluate, then meet
• Staff make recommendations after peer review process complete
• NEH Senior staff review recommendations
• National Council on Humanities review recommendations at July meeting
• NEH Chair makes final decisions on awards

Applicants notified: April 2024/2025
Projects begin: June 2024/2025
Contact

- Email program staff with questions or short project summary: odh@neh.gov
  - No drafts accepted
- Volunteer to serve as a peer reviewer: odh@neh.gov

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