



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES

OFFICE OF DIGITAL HUMANITIES

**Dangers and Opportunities of Technology:
Perspectives from the Humanities**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Updated: July 25, 2023

1. How does the Office of Digital Humanities (ODH) define “technology” for the purposes of this program?

It is up to you to identify and define the technologies you choose to examine, but ODH encourages you to interpret the term “technology” broadly.

2. Must applications address both the dangers and the opportunities of the technologies identified in my research project?

No, applicants do not need to address both negative and positive consequences of the technologies identified in their research.

3. Does the Dangers and Opportunities of Technology program fund projects that analyze current social and cultural issues?

Yes, NEH can fund projects that address urgent topics like climate change, artificial intelligence, and racial justice from a humanistic perspective. However, NEH award recipients and subrecipients may not use funds made available under an NEH award to:

- promote a particular political, religious, or ideological point of view;
- advocate for a particular program of social or political action; or
- support specific public policies or legislation.

4. Our project seems compatible with the goals and activities of the Digital Humanities Advancement Grants (DHAG) program, but it also could fit in the Dangers and Opportunities of Technology (DOT) grant program. To which program should we apply?

DHAG supports projects that respond to one or more of these programmatic priorities:

- research and refinement of innovative, experimental, or computationally challenging methods and techniques
- enhancement or design of digital infrastructure that contributes to and supports the

- humanities, such as open-source code, tools, or platforms
- evaluative studies that investigate the practices and the impact of digital scholarship on research, pedagogy, scholarly communication, and public engagement

The DOT program supports research that examines technology and its relationship to society through the lens of the humanities. Those technologies need not be digital.

DOT projects do not need to demonstrate innovation; do not need to enhance or contribute to digital infrastructure or platforms; and do not need to address practices or impacts of digital humanities scholarship.

You may submit proposals to more than one NEH program for complementary (that is, separate and distinct) components of a larger project, as long as the applications address the requirements for each program. NEH does not permit overlapping project costs and activities between two or more applications for federal funding and/or approved federal award budgets. If you are uncertain which program you should apply to, we encourage you to contact ODH program staff at odh@neh.gov for guidance, and we can help you determine which program is a good fit for your project. [You may also find the resources on our website helpful.](#)

5. Will you review draft applications?

No, we will not, but we encourage you to contact ODH staff at odh@neh.gov with questions about the fit of your proposed project to this program or questions about the application process.

In order to ensure program staff can respond in a timely fashion, NEH suggests reaching out at least three weeks in advance of the deadline.

ELIGIBILITY

6. May a non-U.S. institution or organization apply for an NEH award?

No. NEH does not provide financial assistance to foreign institutions or organizations. See C. Eligibility Information in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).

7. Can our project include collaborators based outside of the U.S.?

Yes. Eligible U.S. institutions may obtain the services of foreign individuals as consultants to carry out various programmatic activities on a fee-for-service basis paid directly to the individual. See C3. Other Eligibility Information in the NOFO.

8. If I work at an eligible institution and I am not a US citizen, may I serve as a project director?

Yes. Project directors need not be U.S. citizens or U.S. residents, so long as the applicant institution is eligible.

9. May our institution apply for more than one Dangers and Opportunities of Technology grant at this time?

Yes. Institutions may apply for and hold more than one of these awards simultaneously. However, individuals may serve as project directors or co-directors for only one application to this program per deadline.

10. May the project director also serve as the institutional grant administrator?

No.

11. We are applying as a collaborative team. How many co-project directors may we include on our proposed project?

There are no restrictions on the number of co-project directors you may include in your proposed project. However, you should keep in mind that serving as a project director comes with specific obligations that do not apply to individuals in other roles, such as “research lead.” NEH encourages you to use the title of co-project director judiciously.

ACTIVITIES and BUDGET

12. May we include costs for payment of participants in our research project (e.g., doing user research, completing surveys, or giving interviews)?

Yes. You may include costs for the payment of participants in your research projects in section F. Other Direct Costs of the Research and Related Budget. You may not compensate these individuals using prepaid or gift cards. See NEH’s [prepaid and gift card policy](#).

13. Can we include students in our project?

Yes, you may include undergraduate and graduate students in your project activities and compensate them with grant funds. While degree candidates may not be project directors or co-directors, they may serve in other project roles. Use the Activities and Research Team section of the Narrative to describe how you will support and benefit all project staff, including students, through project-based learning, mentoring, immersion in the activities of the institution, or other professional development opportunities. See sections C3 and D2 in the NOFO.

14. May we describe institutional salary requirements in the budget justification?

Yes. Use the budget justification to contextualize institutional practices in salaries or benefits, such as standard rates for undergraduate or graduate student wages, honoraria, or base salaries for post-doctoral research associates.

15. Our institution has several indirect cost rates. What rate is most appropriate to use for a Dangers and Opportunities of Technology grant?

An institution may include indirect costs up to the appropriate negotiated rate in its application budget. With rare exceptions, your institution’s “Research” rate will **not** be the appropriate rate for inclusion in your project budget, since it is reserved for projects involving scientific research, not scholarly inquiry of the type most often supported by NEH.

You should include indirect costs in the total amount requested on the budget form. You may not add indirect costs to your award if you are selected for funding.

See also this NEH resource: [Indirect Costs: Tips for ODH Applicants and Grants Officers](#).

16. May our institution use an indirect cost rate that is lower than its negotiated rate or waive indirect costs altogether?

Yes, your institution may include indirect costs up to the appropriate negotiated rates (see prior question) and may elect to apply a lower rate. Your institution may also waive indirect costs.

For more information, you may wish to consult this NEH resource: [Indirect Costs: Tips for ODH Applicants and Grants Officers](#).

17. Who should we name as a key person on the Research and Related Budget form?

You should only include key project personnel **employed by the applicant institution** in sections A and B of the Research and Related Budget form. Include team members who are playing a leadership role in A. Key Persons and additional project team members in B. Other Personnel. Depending on their role on the project, you may include costs for other project team members who are not employed by the applicant institution on the budget under F3. Consultant Services or F5. Subawards/Consortium/ Contractual Costs. It is important to understand that not everyone listed in Attachment 1: List of Personnel will be a Key Person on the budget. An individual's status on the budget has no impact on their role in the project and its implementation.

18. Are Automated Data Processing (ADP) and Computer Services costs the same as equipment?

No. The ADP/Computer Services section in the Research and Related Budget form refers to paid services at your institution for activities such as high-performance computing, use of GIS licenses, or use of lab space to complete your project. If you plan to contract with a third party to provide such services, or plan to rent computer equipment, include these costs in line F5. Subawards/Consortium/Contractual Costs. If you plan to purchase laptops, these are generally considered "supplies or materials" and belong in line F1.

19. May we include article processing charges or fees for publishing in open access venues?

Yes, you may include open access fees in the budget, under F. Other Direct Costs, 2. Publication Costs.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

20. May we include letters of support with our application?

No. NEH does not accept letters of support in the DOT program and will remove any that are submitted.

21. Are letters of commitment required?

For projects led by collaborative teams, letters of commitment are required from all co-project directors, regardless of institutional affiliation, confirming their involvement and responsibilities. The project director named on the SF-424 does not need to provide a letter.

Other named project personnel, including consultants, may wish to provide letters of commitment.

22. What is required in a letter of commitment?

Letters of commitment may be brief and should demonstrate that the individual is aware you have included them in your proposal and understands the level of commitment that the project will require of them. Letters of commitment should not supplement the narrative by further describing your project's value or potential impact.

23. On the Supplementary Cover Sheet for NEH Grant Programs, question number 1 asks for the project director's major field of study. Our project director's field of study is not listed in the drop-down menu. What should we choose?

If none of the listed fields seems to fit your project director's major field of study, choose "Interdisciplinary."

ACCESSIBILITY

24. Where can we find resources with additional information about developing projects that are accessible for users of all abilities?

Section H of the NOFO includes a list of resources that may be useful in developing plans to ensure that grant products are accessible to a broad audience, including individuals with disabilities.