



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

DIVISION OF RESEARCH PROGRAMS

FELLOWSHIPS and NEH-MELLON FELLOWSHIPS FOR DIGITAL PUBLICATION

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Updated December 21, 2022

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. If NEH offers you an award, you will be able to change the start date of your fellowship as long as you stay within the dates specified in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). You cannot lengthen your period of performance, but you can shorten it to no less than six months. NEH will not be able to delay the period of performance beyond the stated timelines of this NOFO, for example 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?

Please check the list of funding restrictions in D6 of either program's NOFO to determine whether your project is eligible and fits. They vary by funding opportunity and can change from year to year, 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.

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 appendices required?

In both programs, one-page appendices are conditionally required for editions, translations, database projects, and for visual projects. Neither program requests writing samples.

In addition, applications for NEH-Mellon Fellowships for Digital Publications require an attachment showing the form of the proposed digital publication in wireframes, sitemaps, or screen shots. If your project involves studying an extant community, such as a tribal community, a religious community, or a secular organization, the program also requires a letter of support from community members.

Please see the instructions in each NOFO for details.

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.

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

Because of the large number of applications received in the **Fellowships** program, NEH staff members are not able to comment on draft applications.

Applicants are encouraged to review the samples of previously funded applications, which are available on the main pages for [Fellowships](#) and NEH-Mellon 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.” is clearer than “Fakes and Fakers: A History of Counterfeiting in the U.S.”

When applicable, 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 will be peer reviewed. 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 email 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 NEH-Mellon Fellowships for Digital Publication

1. I am working on a digital publication. Should I apply to the NEH-Mellon Fellowships for Digital Publication or to the main NEH Fellowships program?

Both programs support digital projects, but we do encourage you to apply to the NEH-Mellon 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).

2. Are the NEH-Mellon Fellowship applications reviewed the same way as the Fellowship applications?

Because the NEH-Mellon Fellowships for Digital Publication is a special opportunity within the larger NEH Fellowships competition, applications will be judged by similar criteria and held to the same standards of scholarly excellence. Applications will be evaluated by separate peer review panels of scholars who are knowledgeable about digital methods and digital publications. The deadline for the NEH-Mellon Fellowships for Digital Publication is one week after the deadline for the NEH Fellowships.

3. Are the applications the same?

No. This program asks some specific questions about the digital project that you should answer as you write your application. The NEH-Mellon Fellowships for Digital Publication applications also require some attachments that the NEH Fellowships competition does not. Consult section D2 of the NOFO for a full description of the required and conditionally required attachments.

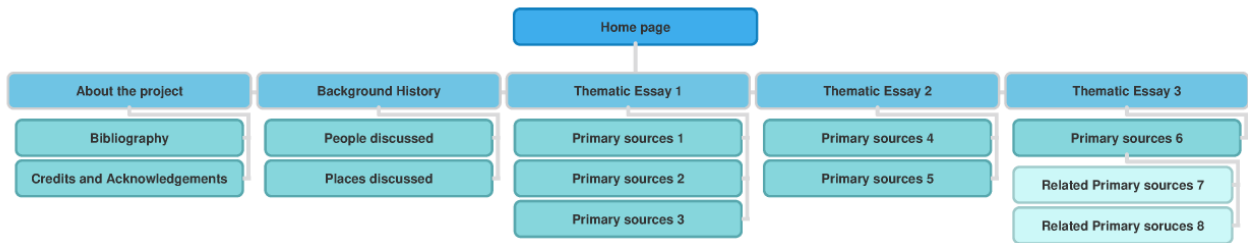
4. One of the required attachments is a “Description of the digital project design.” Options include a site map, a wireframe, or annotated screenshots. What is this for?

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 may do so by including a site map, a wireframe, or annotated screenshots of an extant prototype, or any combination of the three.

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. The attachment must be a .pdf.

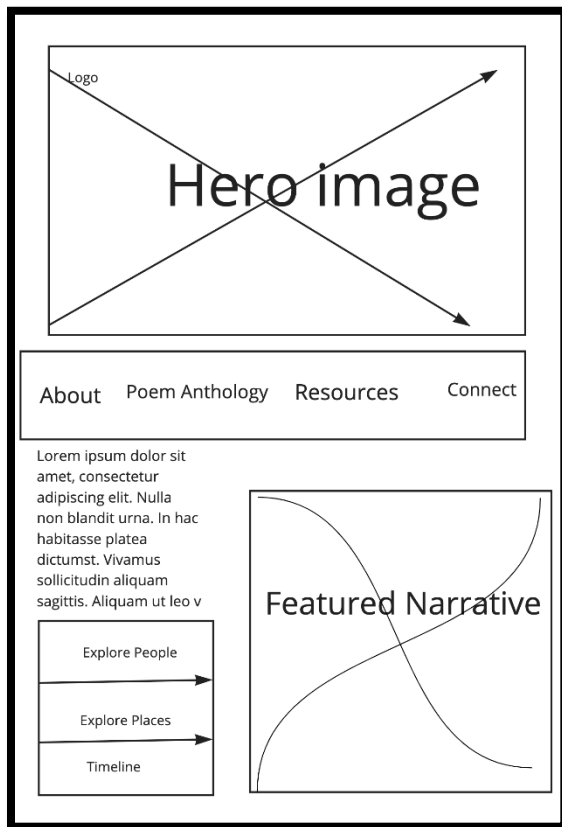
Example: a generic site map.



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.

Example: a generic wireframe of a home page.



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. The total pdf page count for this attachment cannot exceed 5 pages, so you may wish to select the most representative parts of your project to wireframe or include more than one wireframe on a pdf page. The attachment must be a .pdf.

5. I am working on developing both a website and a print book. Should I apply for an NEH-Mellon Fellowship for Digital Publication?

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

NEH-Mellon Fellowships for Digital Publication encourage 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.

6. 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 NEH-Mellon Fellowships for Digital Publication special opportunity?

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.

7. I am working on a print publication and would like to offer it as an e-book as well. Should I apply to the NEH-Mellon 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.