



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE
Humanities

DIVISION OF RESEARCH PROGRAMS

NEH-MELLON FELLOWSHIPS FOR DIGITAL PUBLICATION

Online applications will be accepted through April 10, 2019 (for projects beginning as early as February 1, 2020). Applicants will be notified of the decision by e-mail in December 2019.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 45.160

Funding Opportunity Number: 20190410-FEL

If after reading this document you have questions about this grant program, contact NEH's Division of Research Programs at 202-606-8200 or fellowships@neh.gov. Applicants who are deaf or hard of hearing can contact NEH via Federal Relay (TTY users) at 800-877-8399.

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I. Program Description

Through NEH-Mellon Fellowships for Digital Publication, the National Endowment for the Humanities and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation jointly support individual scholars pursuing interpretive research projects that require digital expression and digital publication. To be eligible for this special opportunity, an applicant's plans for digital publication must be integral to the project's research goals. That is, the project must be conceived as digital because the research topics being addressed and methods applied demand presentation beyond traditional print publication. Successful projects will likely incorporate visual, audio, and/or other multimedia materials or flexible reading pathways that could not be included in traditionally published books, as well as an active distribution plan.

All projects must be interpretive. That is, projects must advance a scholarly argument through digital means and tools. Stand-alone databases and other projects that lack an explicit interpretive argument are not eligible.

Applications submitted for this special opportunity will be evaluated separately from other NEH Fellowships applications, but, like applications submitted to the NEH Fellowships program, will be held to the highest standards of scholarship. Applicants must clearly articulate the intellectual significance of the proposed project, including value to humanities scholars, general audiences, or both.

Applicants interested in conducting research and writing leading to traditional print or e-book publications should apply to the [NEH Fellowships program](#).

NEH and Mellon encourage submission of Fellowships for Digital Publication applications from independent scholars and faculty at Hispanic-Serving Institutions, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and Tribal Colleges and Universities.

Applicants at Hispanic-Serving Institutions, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and Tribal Colleges and Universities may apply to either the NEH-Mellon Fellowships for Digital Publication program or the appropriate Awards for Faculty program (Awards for Faculty at [Hispanic-Serving Institutions](#), [Historically Black Colleges and Universities](#), or [Tribal Colleges and Universities](#)), but not both.

NEH-Mellon Fellowships for Digital Publication may not be used for

- projects that result in traditional print books or e-books;
- projects to construct or add to stand-alone databases that do not result in interpretive research;
- 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;

- projects that fall outside of the humanities; the creation or performance of art; creative writing, autobiographies, memoirs, and creative nonfiction; and empirically based social science research or policy studies;
- research by students enrolled in a degree program, including research for doctoral dissertations or theses;
- the preparation or revision of textbooks;
- curriculum development;
- the development of teaching methods or theories;
- educational, language impact or technical impact assessments;
- empirical social science research, unless part of a larger humanities project;
- inventories of collections; or
- the writing of guide books, how-to books, and self-help books.

Special encouragement in recognition of and preparation for the 250th anniversary of American independence

Americans will celebrate the 250th anniversary of our nation in 2026. The anniversary of American independence provides an important opportunity to look back at the nation's founding and the past two and a half centuries of American history. What began as a conflict between the thirteen colonies and Great Britain culminated in the creation of what would become the world's oldest constitutional democracy. As we approach the 250th anniversary, NEH is offering a special encouragement to applicants to the NEH-Mellon Fellowships for Digital Publication program to consider the impact—both immediate and long term—of the momentous events of 1776.

We especially invite applications that explore the role of the Declaration of Independence and other foundational documents in the making of U.S. history. In addition, we would welcome applications that explore the experiences of states and communities beyond the original colonies in joining the nation, since they have their own stories of becoming part of the United States. We also invite applications examining the stories and contributions of under-represented communities in our nation's history.

Advancing Civic Education

NEH encourages projects that promote a deeper understanding of American history and culture, as well as projects that advance civic education and knowledge of America's core principles of government.

Standing Together

NEH invites projects related to its [Standing Together](#) initiative, which encourages projects related to war and military service.

Protecting our cultural heritage

In response to the destruction of cultural heritage materials worldwide, NEH encourages applications for projects that study, document, or create digital representations of lost or imperiled cultural heritage materials. Proposed projects should be based on scholarly work and follow standards and best practices. Projects must demonstrate the capacity to be sustained and must be widely accessible to the public. For more information click [here](#).

All applications will be given equal consideration in accordance with the program's evaluation criteria.

Providing access to NEH-funded products

As a taxpayer-supported federal agency, NEH endeavors to make the products of its awards available to the broadest possible audience. Our goal is for scholars, educators, students, and the American public to have ready and easy access to the wide range of NEH-funded products. For the NEH-Mellon Fellowships for Digital Publication program, such products may include digital resources, e-books, websites, and the like. For projects that lead to the development of websites or web-based products (including peer-reviewed articles), all other considerations being equal, NEH gives preference to those that provide free access to the public. Additional guidance on access and dissemination matters can be found below in Section II, Preparing and Organizing your Application, beneath the "Final product and dissemination" heading.

Award information

The period of performance for NEH-Mellon Fellowships for Digital Publication is no less than six and no more than twelve months at a stipend of \$5,000 per month. The maximum stipend is \$60,000 for a twelve-month period.

The award period must be **full-time** and **continuous**. Teaching and administrative assignments or other major activities may not be undertaken during the fellowship period.

Applicants should request fellowship periods that suit their schedules and the needs of their projects. Requesting a period shorter than twelve months will not improve an applicant's chance of receiving a fellowship.

Recipients may begin their awards as early as February 1, 2020, and as late as September 1, 2021.

Successful applicants will be required to complete the [Fellowships Acceptance Form](#) (PDF), from which a payment schedule will be determined.

Fellowships do not require cost sharing.

The recipient may copyright any work that is subject to copyright and was developed, or for which ownership was required, under the NEH fellowship. NEH reserves a royalty-free, non-exclusive, and irrevocable right to reproduce, publish, or otherwise use an award recipient's NEH-supported work for federal purposes, and to authorize others to do so. NEH has typically exercised this right in consultation with Fellowship award recipients to publish an excerpt from resulting grant product(s) in Humanities magazine or on the NEH website.

Prospective applicants who have questions are encouraged to contact the Fellowships staff at fellowships@neh.gov.

Eligibility

Within the parameters listed below (see the next several headings), individuals are eligible to apply, whether they have an institutional affiliation or not.

Citizenship

U.S. citizens, whether they reside inside or outside the United States, are eligible to apply. Foreign nationals who have been living in the United States or its jurisdictions for at least the three years prior to the application deadline are also eligible. Foreign nationals who take up permanent residence outside the United States any time between the application deadline and the end of the period of performance will forfeit their eligibility to hold an award. (Leaving the U.S. on a temporary basis is permitted.)

Currently enrolled students

While applicants need not have advanced degrees, individuals currently enrolled in a degree-granting program are ineligible to apply. Applicants who have satisfied all the requirements for a degree and are awaiting its conferral in 2019 are eligible for NEH Fellowships; but such applicants must include as an attachment to their application a letter from the dean of the conferring school or their department chair attesting to the applicant's status as of April 10, 2019.

Dissertation revisions

Applicants may seek funding for projects based on completed dissertations. You must state in your application narrative that the proposal is to revise a dissertation, and you must explain how the new project moves beyond the original dissertation.

Projects previously supported by NEH

Applicants may not apply for funding for a project previously supported by an NEH Fellowship, an NEH-Mellon Fellowship for Digital Publication, a Public Scholar award, or an Award for Faculty. Applicants may, however, apply for funding for a project previously supported by a two-month NEH Summer Stipend. In such a case, NEH will review the accomplishments from the previous award to determine whether the project warrants additional funding.

Concurrent grants from other organizations

Recipients of NEH-Mellon Fellowships for Digital Publication may simultaneously hold fellowships or grants from institutions other than NEH—including sabbaticals and grants from their own institutions—in support of the same project during their period of performance.

Collaborative projects

Applicants proposing to work together are encouraged to apply for an NEH [Collaborative Research](#) grant. The NEH-Mellon Fellowships for Digital Publication program is designed primarily for individual researchers. An award may not be divided among multiple collaborators. If you are seeking funding for more than one participant in a collaborative project, each person seeking funding must submit a separate application specifying the individual contribution. Panelists will be asked to evaluate each application on its own merits. Each application should clearly explain how the work will be divided and the extent to which each collaborator's contribution depends on that of the other(s). Applicants who are seeking funding only for themselves but who are working as part of a collaborative team are also eligible. In this case, too, the application should clearly explain how the work will be divided and the extent to which each collaborator's contribution depends on that of the other(s). Applicants proposing to work together may wish to apply instead or in addition for an NEH [Collaborative Research](#) grant.

Multiple applications

An individual may apply to only one of the following fellowships programs in a given federal fiscal year.

- Applicants may not apply both to the *Fellowships* program and to the *NEH-Mellon Fellowships for Digital Publication* program. Applicants wishing to apply to the former program can find information [here](#).
- Applicants may not apply both to the NEH-Mellon Fellowships for Digital Publication program and to one of the Awards for Faculty programs. Applicants wishing to apply for an Award for Faculty can find information here: [Awards for Faculty at Hispanic-Serving Institutions](#), [Historically Black Colleges and Universities](#), and [Tribal Colleges and Universities](#).
- Applicants for NEH-Mellon Fellowships for Digital Publication may also not apply to the Fellowship Program for Advanced Social Science Research on Japan.
- Applicants may submit only one application to the NEH-Mellon Fellowships for Digital Publication program in a given year.

Applicants for NEH-Mellon Fellowships for Digital Publication *may*, however, compete concurrently in the following programs for individuals in a given year:

- [Public Scholar Program](#);
- [Summer Stipends](#);

- NEH and National Science Foundation - [Fellowship Program for Documenting Endangered Languages \(DEL\)](#);
- Library of Congress (LOC) - [John W. Kluge Center Fellowships](#); and
- [NEH-funded fellowships at independent research institutions](#).

Each competition has separate requirements for its application. Please follow the instructions in the relevant set of guidelines in each case.

Applications must be complete, must observe the specified page limits, and must be received and validated by Grants.gov under the correct funding opportunity number to be considered under this notice.

Note: An individual may hold or accept only one NEH individual award (for example, a Fellowship, an Award for Faculty, a Public Scholar award, or a Summer Stipend) in a given federal fiscal year. (The federal fiscal year runs from October 1 through September 30.) Nor may an individual work on a project supported by an NEH institutional award as either a project director or participant during the period of performance of an NEH individual award that is held full time.

Additional restrictions may apply if you are a recipient of multiple NEH awards, or a participant in multiple NEH-supported projects. Please contact program staff for details.

Completeness of application

NEH will not review late, incomplete, or ineligible applications. Applications exceeding the page limits for any of the application elements will not be reviewed. Applications requesting a period of performance of less than six months or more than twelve months will not be reviewed.

II. Preparing and Organizing your Application

Resources for preparing a strong application

To prepare a strong application, applicants are encouraged to take the following steps:

- read these **guidelines** carefully, noting what information needs to be provided in the application;
- review the **sample narratives**, which are available on the [program resource page](#);
- consult the program's **review criteria**, which are listed immediately below;
- read the **Frequently Asked Questions**, which are available on the [program resource page](#); and
- contact the **program staff** (at 202-606-8200 or fellowships@neh.gov) to discuss your project and raise any questions you may have about the application.

The Fellowships staff is not able to read and comment on draft proposals. However, potential applicants may discuss with staff specific concerns or questions that arise during the

preparation of their proposals. Once an application has been submitted, staff will not comment on it except with respect to issues of completeness and eligibility.

While staff responses to concerns or questions are not part of the formal review process and have no bearing on the final outcome of the proposal, previous applicants have found them helpful.

Review criteria

Reviewers are asked to apply the following five criteria when judging the quality of applications.

1. The intellectual significance of the proposed project, including its value to humanities scholars, general audiences, or both.
2. The quality or promise of quality of the applicant's work as an interpreter of the humanities.
3. The quality of the conception, definition, organization, and description of the project and the applicant's clarity of expression.
4. The feasibility and appropriateness of the proposed plan of work, including, when relevant, the soundness of the dissemination and access plans.
5. The likelihood that the applicant will complete the project (not necessarily during the period of performance).

Note: NEH-Mellon Fellowships for Digital Publication support projects at any stage of development.

Note: Evaluators may or may not be specialists in the proposed field of study of each application. Some review panels will be disciplinary, others interdisciplinary. Thus applicants should make sure to write for a broad scholarly audience and to avoid or explain technical terms whenever possible.

Application elements

Your application should include the parts listed below. Because award amounts are based on a full-time commitment during the period of performance, no budget is required. Applicants are responsible for ensuring that all parts of the application, including the letters of reference, have been properly submitted.

Applicants should format single-spaced pages with one-inch margins and with a font size no smaller than eleven point. Applications exceeding the page limits for the various components or violating the format instructions will not be reviewed.

For important guidance on choosing your project title, see below under Part III (Submitting your Application), Step 4, point 6.a.

1. **Narrative—Not to Exceed Three Single-Spaced Pages** (using a font no smaller than 11 points)

The narrative must provide an intellectual justification for your project, addressing the four areas listed below: research and contribution; methods and work plan; competencies, skills, and access; and final product and dissemination. A simple statement of need or intent is insufficient. The narrative should not assume specialized knowledge and should be free of technical terms and jargon.

○ *Research and contribution*

Describe the intellectual significance of the proposed project, including its value to humanities scholars, general audiences, or both. State the project's thesis or claim and provide an overview, explaining the basic ideas, problems, or questions examined by the study. Explain how the project will complement, challenge, or expand relevant studies in the field.

○ *Methods and work plan*

Describe your method(s) and explain how digital publication is essential to convey your ideas (and why you cannot convey them as effectively via traditional publication). Where appropriate, include information on how the effectiveness of your digital methods will be assessed. Indicate the current state of the project and the part or stage of it that will be supported by the fellowship. Provide a work plan describing what will be accomplished during the period of performance, where you will be, and how you will spend your time. Explain how your proposed research will advance the project. Your work plan must be based on a full-time commitment to the project; part-time work is not allowed.

If you do not anticipate finishing the entire project during the period of performance, discuss your plan for doing so.

Explain how the final product will be organized. If possible, provide a brief outline. If you are proposing a dissertation revision or you are proposing to convert materials already published as hardcopy publications into a digital product, state this, explaining the changes and how they will improve the dissertation or the already published materials. Describe the technologies that will be used and developed, and explain how the scholarship will be presented to benefit audiences in the humanities.

For editions and translations, indicate whether you will include an introduction, annotations, or other scholarly apparatus. If you are applying to translate a work into English and other English translations already exist, provide a rationale for a new translation. Applicants must also provide a rationale for projects resulting in works that will be written in a language other than English.

If you are requesting funding for the development, acquisition, preservation, or

enhancement of geospatial data, products, or services, you must comply with [Article 34 of the General Terms and Conditions for Awards](#).

Your work plan for the period of performance should not depend heavily on factors beyond your control, such as the receipt of outside readers' reports from a publisher. If you plan to submit your manuscript before the end of the period of performance, explain what additional work the project will require after you submit the manuscript and why it merits support.

- *Competencies, skills, and access*

Explain your competence or background in the area of your project. If the area of inquiry is new to you, explain your reasons for working in it and your qualifications to do so. Specify the level of competence in any language or digital technology needed for the study. Describe where the study will be conducted and what research materials will be used. If relevant, specify the arrangements for access to archives, collections, or institutions that contain the necessary resources.

- *Final product and dissemination*

Describe the intended audience and the intended form of the final publication. Name and justify your choice of digital publication platform (for example, Scalar) and provide the name of any digital press or imprint committed to the publication. Where appropriate, explain how rights for images, audio, video, or other multi-media will be obtained. Explain how the results will be disseminated and why these means are appropriate to the subject matter and audience. If the project has a website, provide the URL. If the final product will appear in a language other than English, explain how access and dissemination will be affected.

As a taxpayer-supported federal agency, NEH endeavors to make the products of its awards available to the broadest possible audience. Our goal is for scholars, educators, students, and the American public to have ready and easy access to the wide range of NEH grant products. However, NEH does not *require* open access publication from its grantees. Applicants should propose the kinds of grant products and dissemination methods that best suit their projects.

NEH also expects that any materials produced in digital form as a result of its awards will be maintained so as to ensure their long-term availability. To that end, describe how the project's digital results will be sustained and supported beyond the period of performance.

2. **Bibliography—Not to Exceed One Single-Spaced Page**

The bibliography should consist of primary and secondary sources that relate directly to the project. Include works that pertain to both the project's substance and its theoretical or methodological approaches. Evaluators will use the bibliography to assess your knowledge of the subject area. Any standard format is acceptable.

3. **Résumé—Not to Exceed Two Single-Spaced Pages**

Your résumé should provide the following:

- *Current and Past Positions.*
- *Education:* List degrees, dates awarded, and titles of theses or dissertations.
- *Awards and Honors:* Include dates. If you have received prior support from NEH, indicate the dates of these grants and the publications that resulted from them.
- *Publications:* Include full citations for publications and presentations.
- *Other Relevant Professional Activities and Accomplishments.* Include your level of competence in any relevant foreign languages and relevant digital technology skills.

4. **Appendices—Not to Exceed Two Pages**

For editions and translations that include a scholarly apparatus, you are required to provide a sample of the original text (one page) and the edited or translated version with annotations (one page). If you plan to include annotations, your sample of the edited or translated version should include examples.

Applicants awaiting the conferral of a degree are required to provide a PDF version of a signed letter from the dean of the conferring school or the department chair, attesting that they have satisfied all of the requirements for the degree as of April 10, 2019.

For all other applications, appendices are optional. They may include screen shots, visual materials, and maps, among others. You must submit appendices as .pdf files. You may not use .jpg or other common graphic formats.

5. **Explanation of delinquent federal debt, if applicable**

If you are delinquent in the repayment of any federal debt, provide explanatory information on a separate page or pages. Also provide evidence that you have entered into a repayment agreement with the Internal Revenue Service, and that you are current on all payments due. Examples of relevant debt include student loans, delinquent payroll or other taxes, delinquent child support payments, audit disallowances, and benefit overpayments. (See OMB Circular A-129.)

6. **Letters of Recommendation**

In addition to preparing the narrative, bibliography, résumé, appendix or appendices (if appropriate), and explanation of delinquent federal debt (if applicable), applicants are also asked to solicit two letters of reference. Provide the names, e-mail addresses, and affiliations for your two reference letter writers on the NEH Supplemental Information for Individuals Form. (This form is explained below, in the instructions for

Form III.) Letters of reference are more highly regarded if they address the specific proposed activity and the candidate's ability to undertake it. Ideally, referees should come from different institutions. Applicants are responsible for providing both referees with relevant materials (such as a draft of the application).

Approximately two to three weeks after the deadline, NEH will e-mail requests to your letter writers, asking them to submit their letters online. Applicants are responsible for ensuring that these requests have been received. If you find that you must change one or both of your referees after the application deadline, you may do so by contacting program staff.

Letters must be submitted online not later than Friday, May 10, 2019.

Missing reference letters will not disqualify an application from review.

III. Submitting your Application

All applications must be accessed through Grants.gov Workspace, completed, and submitted via Grants.gov.

What follows is a step-by-step guide for submitting your application through Grants.gov.

STEP 1: Register with Grants.gov

NEH strongly recommends that you complete or verify your registration at least two weeks before the application deadline, since it takes time to process your registration.

If you are registering with Grants.gov for the first time as an individual applicant, go to <https://apply07.grants.gov/apply/register.faces>.

When you are completing the registration form, the Grants.gov system should automatically fill in the box for the DUNS number with a code such as INDV00000. Do not attempt to change this code (for example, by entering the DUNS number of your institution).

Applicants who have already registered at Grants.gov as individuals need not re-register to submit their proposals. We encourage you, however, to check your account ahead of the deadline to confirm that it is still active and that your password has not expired.

Applicants who lose their username and password can request a reminder at <https://apply07.grants.gov/apply/login.faces?userType=applicant&cleanSession=1>.

Please be certain to use a Grants.gov individual account to submit your application. The Grants.gov system will not allow you to submit a Fellowships application through an institutional account.

If you have problems registering with Grants.gov, contact the Grants.gov help desk at 1-800-518-4726 or support@grants.gov.

STEP 2: Download the current version of the free Adobe Reader

Using Grants.gov Workspace to prepare your application, you may complete the application forms online without using the Adobe Acrobat Reader software. You will in any case need to convert the files that you will attach to the Attachments Form—see below for information about this form—into PDFs.

If you are filling out the application forms as PDFs, you will need to download and install the latest version of Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available at no charge and is compatible with both PCs and Apple computers. **Using older versions of the Adobe Acrobat Reader, or other readers such as Apple Preview, will prevent your application from being processed properly.** Visit Grants.gov’s Adobe Software Compatibility page to verify the compatibility of your current software or to download the appropriate version at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/adobe-software-compatibility.html>.

STEP 3: Access the application package through Grants.gov Workspace

Using Grants.gov Workspace, you may complete the application forms online. You may also download the forms as PDFs. Information about Workspace is available [here](#). (Grants.gov recommends that you use the latest version of any of the following browsers: Microsoft Internet Explorer, Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome, and Apple Safari.) You can access the forms online or download the PDFs at any time. (You do not have to wait for your Grants.gov registration to be complete.) A link to the Grants.gov application package can be found on the [program resource page](#).

STEP 4: Prepare the application forms

The application package contains three forms that you must complete in order to submit your application:

- **Form I: Application for Federal Assistance - Individual Form**—this Grants.gov form (also known as the SF-424 - Individual form) asks for basic information about you and your project.
- **Form II: Attachments Form**—this Grants.gov form allows you to attach the components of your application: the narrative, the bibliography, the résumé, (if appropriate) the appendix or appendices, and (if necessary) an explanation of any delinquent federal debt.
- **Form III: NEH Supplemental Information for Individuals Form**—this NEH form asks for professional and institutional information about you and about your reference-letter writers.

Form I: Application for Federal Assistance – Individual Form

In the “Application Filing Name” field that appears upon opening the application package, type your name.

You may disregard items 1-4 on the form:

- 1. Name of Federal Agency:** This is filled in automatically.
- 2. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:** This is filled in automatically.
- 3. Date Received:** Please leave blank.
- 4. Funding Opportunity Number and Title:** Both are filled in automatically.

Provide the following information for items 5-7:

5. Applicant Information (includes the following sections):

- a. “Name and Contact Information.” Provide your name, telephone number, **e-mail address**, and mailing address. **Note: You must include an e-mail address in the “Email” field, even though it is not highlighted as a required field. NEH will use this e-mail address to notify you of the outcome of your application.**
- b. “Address.” Provide your mailing address. **Note:** Your ZIP code must include the four-digit extension, preceded by a hyphen. If you do not know your four-digit extension, use “-0000” (four zeros).
- c. “Citizenship Status.” Indicate with an “X.”
- d. “Congressional District of Applicant.” Enter the number (just the number, not the state) of your Congressional district. To find the number of your Congressional district, visit the House of Representatives website at <http://www.house.gov> and type your ZIP code into the “Find Your Representative” tool. If you do not have a Congressional district (that is, you are in a state or U.S. territory that does not have districts or you are in a foreign country), enter a “0” (zero). If you live in one district but your institution is in another, provide the number for the district in which you live.

6. Project Information (includes the following sections):

- a. “Project Title.” Enter this, even though the field is not highlighted. The title may not exceed 125 characters.

The title should be descriptive of the project, substantive, and free of specialized language. Most importantly, your title should be easily understood by the general public. NEH reserves the right to retitle funded projects for clarity when announcing its funding decisions and in its own reports and communications, but recipients are permitted to use their preferred title for any award products. You can find guidance for writing a good title in the Frequently Asked Questions, which are available on the [program resource page](#).

- b. “Project Description.” Describe your project for a nonspecialist audience, stating the importance of the proposed work to larger issues in the humanities. This description will appear on your application cover sheet and will serve as a project abstract during the review process. **Do not exceed one thousand characters, including spaces.** If you exceed one thousand characters, including spaces, the Grants.gov validation software may reject your application or cut off your project description at the thousand-character limit.

c. “Proposed Project.” Enter the starting and ending dates for your proposed period of performance. You must start your period of performance on the first day of the month and end it on the last day of the month. Because award amounts depend on the number of months of work that you specify, the dates that you enter here will determine the maximum amount of your award. You must request a period of performance of at least six months and no more than twelve months. No award will exceed \$60,000, which is the amount awarded for twelve months of full-time work. You may change your start and end dates if you receive an award, so long as the change does not increase the dollar value of your award. For more information on allowable award terms and how awards are calculated, see “Award Information” on page 5.

7. Signature: By clicking on the “I Agree” box, the applicant certifies the following:

He or she is not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in covered transactions by any federal department or agency, and has not—within the three years preceding the submission of this application—been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against him or her for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with a public (federal, state, or local) transaction or a contract under a public transaction; for violation of federal or state antitrust statutes; for commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property; had any public transactions terminated for cause or default; and is not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity with any of the preceding offenses.. (See 2 CFR parts 180 and 3369.)

He or she is not delinquent in the repayment of any federal debt or is providing explanatory information about any delinquency. Examples of relevant debt include student loans, delinquent payroll or other taxes, delinquent child support payments, audit disallowances, and benefit overpayments. (See OMB Circular A-129.)

He or she will comply with the [NEH Fellowships and Awards for Faculty Terms and Conditions](#).

Click on the “Save” button at the top of the form to save your work and return to the main menu.

Form II: Attachments Form

Open the form and complete it.

To ensure that NEH’s system does not reject your application after it has been retrieved from Grants.gov, check that your attachments meet the following requirements:

1. The component parts of your application must be attached to the Attachments Form in Portable Document Format (PDF). NEH cannot accept attachments in their original word processing, graphic, or spreadsheet formats. See the NEH resource [Converting your Documents to PDFs](#). Make sure that all files in formats other than PDF (images, Word or Excel files, etc.) have been properly saved as PDF files. Do not simply rename your non-PDF files with PDF extensions. If an attachment contains multiple PDFs, you must merge those documents into a single PDF. Do not attach a zip file containing multiple PDFs.

2. Attachments must be in the specified order and must use the specified names. Do not use accent marks or other special characters in your file names. Use only the following characters when naming your attachments: A-Z, a-z, 0-9, underscore (_), hyphen (-), space (), period,

parenthesis (), curly braces {}, square brackets [], ampersand &, tilde ~, exclamation point !, Comma , Semicolon; Apostrophe ‘, at sign @, number sign #, dollar sign \$, percent sign %, plus sign +, equal sign = . File names must be limited to 50 or fewer characters. If you include any other character in a filename, Grants.gov will reject your application.

When you open the Grants.gov Attachments Form, you will find fifteen attachment buttons, labeled “Attachment 1” through “Attachment 15.” By clicking on a button, you will be able to choose the file from your computer that you wish to attach. You must name your files exactly as indicated and attach them in the proper order, as listed below:

ATTACHMENT 1: To this button, please attach your project **narrative**. Name the file “narrative.pdf”.

ATTACHMENT 2: To this button, please attach your **bibliography**. Name the file “bibliography.pdf”.

ATTACHMENT 3: To this button, please attach your **résumé**. **Name the file “resume.pdf”.** **Do not include accent marks in the file name** (“résumé.pdf”); doing so will cause an error in the processing of your application at Grants.gov.

ATTACHMENT 4: To this button, please attach your **appendix or appendices** (if appropriate). Necessary appendices include editing samples, translation samples, and (for applicants awaiting the conferral of a degree) a signed letter from the dean of the conferring school or your department chair, attesting that you have satisfied all of the requirements for the degree as of April 10, 2019. Name the file “appendix.pdf”.

ATTACHMENT 5: To this button, please attach your **explanation of any delinquent federal debt** (only if applicable). Name the file “delinquentdebt.pdf”.

3. Attachments must not exceed the specified length limitations.

4. No attachments other than those specified above may be included.

Form III: NEH Supplemental Information for Individuals Form

Open the form and provide the following information:

- *Field of Project:* Using the drop-down menu, indicate the field(s) of your project. You may select one, two, or three fields. If you select more than one, list the primary field first.
- *Project Director Field of Study:* Using the drop-down menu, choose the field of study that best describes your area of expertise.
- *Address Information:* Please indicate whether the address that you have given on the Application for Federal Assistance - Individual form is your home or work address.
- *Institutional Affiliation:* If you are not affiliated with an institution of higher education, please click “No” and continue to the Status section. If you are affiliated with an

institution of higher education, please complete the information for that institution. Applicants with a U.S. institutional affiliation must include their institution's DUNS number with the hyphens omitted. This number is generally available from an institution's sponsored research office or at your institution's website.

- *Status:* Indicate if you are a junior scholar or a senior scholar. Junior scholars are defined as those who are seven years or fewer beyond their final degree; senior scholars are defined as those who are eight years or more beyond their final degree.
- *Reference Letters:* Provide the names, e-mail addresses, and affiliations for your two recommenders. **Enter only one e-mail address for each recommender.** (Applicants are responsible for providing accurate e-mail addresses. The NEH system will use the addresses exactly as they have been entered on this form.) Applicants are responsible for ensuring that their recommenders have received these requests and that the letters are properly submitted. (For additional information, see the "Checking the Status of Your Letters of Reference" section below.)

To ensure full consideration, letters must be submitted online **no later than May 10, 2019**. Late letters will be added to your file when they arrive, but it is possible that evaluators will not take them into account.

Missing reference letters will not disqualify an application from review.

- *Nominating Official:* Please leave this section blank.

STEP 5: Submit your application to Grants.gov

When you have completed the Application for Federal Assistance - Individual Form and the NEH Supplemental Information for Individuals Form and attached the component parts of your application to the Attachments Form, perform validation checks on the application as needed, and fix any errors. After you have done so, you are ready to submit your application to Grants.gov.

To submit your application, your computer must have an active connection to the Internet. To begin the submission process, click the "Submit" button. A page will appear, asking you to sign and submit your application. When you click the "Sign and Submit Application" button, your application will be submitted to Grants.gov. Please note that it may take some time to submit your application, depending on the size of your files and the speed of your Internet connection.

After the submission is complete, a confirmation page will appear, showing the tracking number assigned to your application. Please print this confirmation for your records. This confirmation indicates that you have submitted your application to Grants.gov for initial processing. Please see below, under "Confirming the acceptance of your application," for more details about the additional confirmation messages that you should receive.

Note: If you find that you need to make a change to your application after you have submitted it, you may do so any time before the application deadline. Simply submit the corrected version through Grants.gov. All submissions are time-stamped, and NEH will keep only your most recent one.

Deadline for submitting applications

Applications for NEH-Mellon Fellowships for Digital Publication must be received and validated by Grants.gov by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on April 10, 2019.

Grants.gov will date- and time-stamp your application after it is fully uploaded. Applications submitted after that date will not be accepted.

IV. What Happens After the Submission of an Application

Confirming the acceptance of your application

After you submit your application, Grants.gov will send you up to five e-mail messages confirming receipt of your application. These messages represent different stages in the application acceptance process. You should verify that you have received all of the following five confirmation messages. Please note that e-mail filters may send these messages to your spam or junk folder.

Message 1: After you submit your application, Grants.gov will immediately assign the application a Grants.gov tracking number (a number like GRANT11791444). Grants.gov will send you an e-mail with this number. The subject line of the message will include the words “Grants.gov Submission Receipt.”

Message 2: At this point Grants.gov attempts to validate the application. If everything checks out, Grants.gov will send you a **second** e-mail confirming that it validated the application, and that it will send the application to NEH. The subject line of the message will include the words “Grants.gov Submission Validation Receipt for Application.” (This message—and all subsequent messages from Grants.gov—again includes the Grants.gov tracking number.) But if Grants.gov discovers a problem with the application (for example, the project description component of the Application for Federal Assistance exceeds the thousand-character limit, or a file name includes an unacceptable character such as a comma), then the attempt at validation fails; Grants.gov accordingly rejects the application. Grants.gov would then send you a message, indicating that the application has been “rejected with errors,” and that you must resubmit. Once you correct the error and resubmit, the process starts all over again. (In other words, Grants.gov would then send you a new version of Message 1, including a new Grants.gov tracking number.) Note that NEH does not receive an application that Grants.gov rejects because it has errors.

Message 3: After Grants.gov has validated the application, NEH uploads the application. Grants.gov then sends you a **third** e-mail to that effect. The subject line of the message will include the words “Grants.gov Agency Retrieval Receipt for Application.” (The “agency” mentioned in the subject line is NEH, which Grants.gov also calls the “grantor agency.”)

Message 4: At this point, NEH assigns its own application number (different from the Grants.gov tracking number) to the application. (The NEH application number will begin with two or three capital letters, followed by a hyphen, followed by six numbers: for example, HD-123456, or HDD-123456.) NEH then informs Grants.gov of the application number that it has assigned. Grants.gov then sends you a **fourth** e-mail, providing the NEH application number (as well as, again, the Grants.gov tracking number). The subject line of the message will include

the words “Grants.gov Agency Tracking Number Assignment for Application.” (What Grants.gov calls the “agency tracking number” is what NEH calls the application number.)

Message 5: Now that NEH has the application, it runs its own check to make sure that the application’s attachments are in proper PDF format. If everything is OK, NEH informs Grants.gov that it has accepted the application. Grants.gov then sends you a **fifth** e-mail, informing you that NEH has accepted the application. The subject line of the message will include the words “Grants.gov Agency Notes Assigned for Application.” (If NEH accepts the application, the “Agency Notes” are as follows: “Application accepted by agency.”) But if NEH rejects the application, NEH sends its own e-mail directly to you. In that case you will receive two e-mails, one from NEH and one from Grants.gov. The NEH e-mail will inform you of the problem with the application (for example, an attachment was not submitted as a PDF). It will also tell you that you need to correct the error and then to resubmit. In that case the e-mail that Grants.gov sends you will reiterate the fact that NEH rejected the application because of problems with the attachments. After you receive these e-mails you must resubmit the application and await receipt of the five messages explained here.

Additional Information

Grants.gov normally sends these e-mail messages within twenty-four hours of the submission of an application. Delays can, however, occur when system usage is heavy. Each message includes your application’s Grants.gov tracking number, and the fourth and fifth messages also include the NEH application number. Keep these messages for your records.

If you receive a message (ordinarily, the second or the fifth message) indicating that your application has been rejected, read it carefully. It should explain what was wrong with your application, and what you must do to fix the problem. Once you fix the problem, you can resubmit the application (so long as you do so before the program’s application deadline).

If you submit an application and don’t receive all five of the e-mail messages, check your “spam” folder, which may contain one or more of them. If you still can’t find them, contact Grants.gov immediately to determine the status of your application, by calling 1-800-518-GRANTS (4726) or sending an e-mail to support@grants.gov. Include the Grants.gov tracking number in correspondence regarding the application. You can also use the Grants.gov [Track my Application](#) tool to check the status of your application.

As stated above, it is your responsibility as an applicant to confirm that Grants.gov and subsequently NEH have accepted your application, by verifying that you have received all five of the messages described here.

Checking the status of your letters of reference

NEH solicits letters of reference from your recommenders approximately two to three weeks after the application deadline, with instructions for submitting their letters online. You will be notified by e-mail when each of your letters of reference has been received. After you have received your NEH application number, you may also check the status of your letters of reference by logging in to [the secure area of NEH’s website](#). Enter your NEH application number and your Grants.gov tracking number. You will be able to see the names and e-mail addresses of your letter writers and whether their letters of reference have arrived. If necessary, you may

send reminders to your letter writers (including the upload link) from this site. **You are responsible for ensuring that your letter writers have submitted their letters.**

Review and selection process

All applications receive peer review. Knowledgeable persons outside NEH will read each application and advise the agency about its merits. NEH staff comments on matters of fact or on significant issues that otherwise would be missing from these reviews, then makes recommendations to the National Council on the Humanities. The National Council meets at various times during the year to advise the NEH chairman on grants. The chairman takes into account the advice provided by the review process and, by law, makes all funding decisions. More details about NEH's review process are available [here](#).

Information for all applicants and for successful applicants

NEH will notify applicants of the results of their applications by e-mail in December. Notice will be sent to the e-mail address supplied in the application. All applicants may obtain the evaluations of their applications by sending an e-mail message to fellowships@neh.gov.

Before submitting an application, applicants should review [NEH's Research Misconduct Policy](#).

Please note that if you apply to the Summer Stipends program and subsequently accept an NEH-Mellon Fellowship for Digital Publication award, your application to the Summer Stipends program will be automatically withdrawn.

A final performance report will be due within ninety days after the award ending date. This report must be submitted electronically via [eGMS Reach](#), NEH's online grant management system. Instructions for preparing the final report are available in eGMS.

A final financial report is not required.

V. Additional Information

Contact information for the program and Grants.gov

If you have questions about the program, contact:

Division of Research Programs
National Endowment for the Humanities
400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20506
202-606-8200
fellowships@neh.gov

Grants.gov: www.Grants.gov
Grants.gov help desk: support@grants.gov

Grants.gov training documents and videos:

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/applicant-training.html>

Grants.gov support line: 1-800-518-GRANTS (4726)

Privacy policy

Information in these guidelines is solicited under the authority of the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities Act of 1965, as amended, 20 U.S.C. 956 *et seq.* The principal purpose for which the information will be used is to process the grant application. The information may also be used for statistical research, analysis of trends, and Congressional oversight. Failure to provide the information may result in the delay or rejection of the application.

Application completion time

The Office of Management and Budget requires federal agencies to supply information on the time needed to complete forms and also to invite comments on the paperwork burden. NEH estimates that the average time to complete this application is fifteen hours per response. This estimate includes time for reviewing instructions, researching, gathering, and maintaining the information needed, and completing and reviewing the application.

Please send any comments regarding the estimated completion time or any other aspect of this application, including suggestions for reducing the completion time, to the Chief Guidelines Officer, at guidelines@neh.gov; the Office of Publications, National Endowment for the Humanities, Washington, D.C. 20506; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (3136-0134), Washington, D.C. 20503. According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB number.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- **Verify your registration or register with Grants.gov.** NEH recommends that you register at least two weeks before the deadline.
- **Access the application package through Grants.gov Workspace.** The [program resource page](#) on NEH's website has a direct link to the package. You can also search Grants.gov for this program.
- **Complete the following forms contained in the Grants.gov application package.**
 1. Application for Federal Assistance – Individual Form
 2. Attachments Form—Using this form, attach the parts of your application as described in the guidelines:

ATTACHMENT 1: Narrative (name the file “narrative.pdf”)

ATTACHMENT 2: Bibliography (name the file “bibliography.pdf”)

ATTACHMENT 3: Résumé (name the file “resume.pdf”) **without accent marks**

ATTACHMENT 4: Appendix or appendices (only if appropriate). Name the file “appendix.pdf”.

ATTACHMENT 5: Explanation of any delinquent federal debt (if applicable) (name the file “delinquentdebt.pdf”)

Note that if you do not use the file names indicated above, your application may be rejected. Do not use accents or other special characters in your file names.

Your attachments must be in Portable Document Format (.pdf). NEH cannot accept attachments in their original word processing or spreadsheet formats. If you don't already have software to convert your files into PDFs, many low-cost and free software packages will do so. You can learn more about converting documents into PDFs [here](#).

3. NEH Supplementary Information for Individuals Form. If you are affiliated with a U.S. institution, this form requires you to provide your institution's DUNS number. This number is generally available from an institution's sponsored research office or at your institution's website.
- **Upload your application to Grants.gov.** NEH **strongly** suggests that you submit your application no later than noon Eastern Time on the day of the deadline. Doing so will leave you time to contact the Grants.gov help desk for support, should you encounter a technical problem of some kind. The Grants.gov help desk is available seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day (except on [federal holidays](#)), at 1-800-518-4726. You can also send an e-mail message to support@grants.gov.
 - **Verify that you received all five confirmation messages from Grants.gov.** The messages are described above in Section IV, “What Happens After the Submission of an Application.”
 - **Monitor the status of your letters of recommendation. Approximately two to three weeks after the deadline, NEH will contact your recommenders to solicit their letters.** You may check the status of your letters by logging in to [the secure area of NEH's website](#). All letters must be received no later than May 10, 2019. You are responsible for ensuring that your letter writers have uploaded their letters by the deadline.

TIMELINE

Before the April 10, 2019 deadline: Contact Division of Research program officers (at 202-606-8200 or fellowships@neh.gov) with questions and for advice (optional)

March 27, 2019: Register or verify your registration with Grants.gov by this date

April 10, 2019: Application must be submitted through and validated by Grants.gov by 11:59 P.M. Eastern Time on this date

Mid-April 2019: NEH prompts recommenders to submit letters of reference

May 10, 2019: Deadline for receipt of letters of reference

May-August 2019: Peer review panels take place

December 2019: Meeting of the National Council on the Humanities, followed by funding decisions

December 2019: Applicants are notified of the funding decisions

Late December 2019/early January 2020: Successful applicants receive offer documents from the NEH Office of Grant Management by e-mail

No later than February 1, 2020: Successful applicants must submit the [Fellowships Acceptance Form](#)

February 1, 2020: Successful applicants may begin work on their projects as early as this date

September 1, 2021: Successful applicants must begin work on their projects no later than this date