



Project Development and Funding Resources for Digital Scholarship Projects

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Introduction

The DSSN “provides ongoing collaborative, technical, curricular, and coordinating assistance”
... with a special focus on “projects linking sciences, social sciences, arts and humanities.”

[-DSSN Website](#)





DSSN Goals

- Community Building
 - Workshops
 - Website
 - Symposia
 - Advocacy
 - Outreach
 - Grants
- Advice and Consultation
- Connecting to Existing Local Resources and Expertise
- Technical Assistance



DSSN Goals for Faculty-Led Research Projects

- Help to plan or launch new projects.
- Partner with existing projects to ensure they are supported throughout their entire lifecycles.
- Connect researchers with what they need to design and propose competitive proposals.
- Identify and develop the resources most useful to faculty in seeking external funding for digital scholarship projects.
- Tailor support efforts specifically to DSSN members' needs.

Problems Faced by Faculty

- Generating the grant application
 - Planning
 - Prototyping/proof of concept
 - Technical requirements
 - Project staffing
 - Networking
 - Coordination
 - Grant writing
- Completing the grant proposal
 - Dissemination
 - Publicity and visibility
 - Long-term planning and on-going support



Example funding sources for small or start-up Digital Humanities projects

- In addition to awards that may be available to individual researchers, say through their departments or scholarly organizations, there are local and regional grant programs well-suited to smaller or start-up projects in the digital humanities, e.g.:
 - [NY Humanities Action Grant](#) (\$6,500-10,000)
 - [OVPRED/HI Research Funding in the Arts and Humanities](#) (\$5,000-10,000)
 - [DSSN Enabling Grant](#) (up to \$2,000)
- Generally *not* an elaborate or demanding application process
- Relatively quick turnaround/notification times
- Can be combined or overlap
- Relatively high rates of success



Developmental or Pilot Grants

- Many federal or other national programs have been shifting from separate programs for different levels of funding/project development to integrated programs with multiple tiers
- Widespread recognition of need to support projects at multiple stages
- Project directors do not have to fit *everything* into a single a grant application at once, most successful projects draw from multiple sources over time



“The Project” versus “The Grant Project”

- Most Grant Projects do not consume their entire subjects or researchers’ overall goals, instead they arise from the need for specific funding and resources for well-defined objectives during a set period of time.
 - Things grants can provide:
 - Paid expertise and specialized support, as well as funds to bring people together for meetings, planning sessions, hack-a-thons, etc.
 - Paid labor
 - Digital infrastructure
 - In-kind and cost-share contributions (usually required; may include things such as teaching release or access to servers, IT or other staff, etc. in negotiation with Departments, Deans, and SPS or related campus offices)

Things Major DS grants typically require:

- Specific, measurable outcomes: new tool releases, innovative methods, specialized or public resources, publications, websites, presentations, etc.
 - Grant officers and organizations measure themselves on the eventual outcomes of their funding decisions, not on the intrinsic quality of incoming project ideas. These staff and their leaders are responsible for making the case that their activities deliver consistent, demonstrable impacts.
 - Clear audience: whether for the general public or specialized group, the audience must be established and significant
 - Qualifications: Grant administration, project direction, team coordination, domain experts, specialists, appropriate institutional support and authorization, advisory board, partnerships, etc.
 - Feasible, Detailed Work Plan
 - Data management plan
 - Proof-of-concept or prototype
 - Technical documentation
 - Require proof of collaboration and qualification of project team, rarely awarded to individuals or smaller teams
 - Specialized documentation and submission required via verified submission ([Sponsored Projects Services](#) and the [Office of Research Advancement](#), can help!)
 - Cost share and in-kind contributions: major grant budgets must be governed by all federal, university, and participating organization rules and standards. This can be negotiated with relevant campus offices such as SPS and ORA in consultation with Departments and the appropriate Associate Dean for Research (for CAS, this is Dr. Murthy Ganapathy)
 - Usually awarded for 1-3 year period, with regular budget and project updates submitted during grant term

Example: Types of NEH Awards

- Research and Development
 - [DH Advancement Grants](#)
 - Level I: \$75,000
Level II: \$150,000
Level III: \$350,000, with an additional \$100,000 in matching funds
 - “work that can scale”; usually creating new tools and methods that can be implemented more widely or consolidating advancements in related fields (e.g. applying tools from one field to a new one)
- Individual Awards
 - [Summer Stipend](#) (up to \$6,000)
- Accessibility and Publication
 - [Humanities Collections and Reference Resources Grants](#)
 - ‘put it online’ or ‘make it more accessible online’ for existing significant collections
 - Foundations projects: \$50,000 (additional \$10,000 to support interinstitutional planning and pilot activities)
 - Implementation projects: \$350,000

Example: Types of NEH Awards, cont.

- Public Humanities

- [NEH Digital Projects for the Public](#)

- Discovery grant (up to \$30,000)
 - Prototyping grant (up to \$100,000)
 - Production grant (up to \$400,000)

- Thematic or targeted programs:

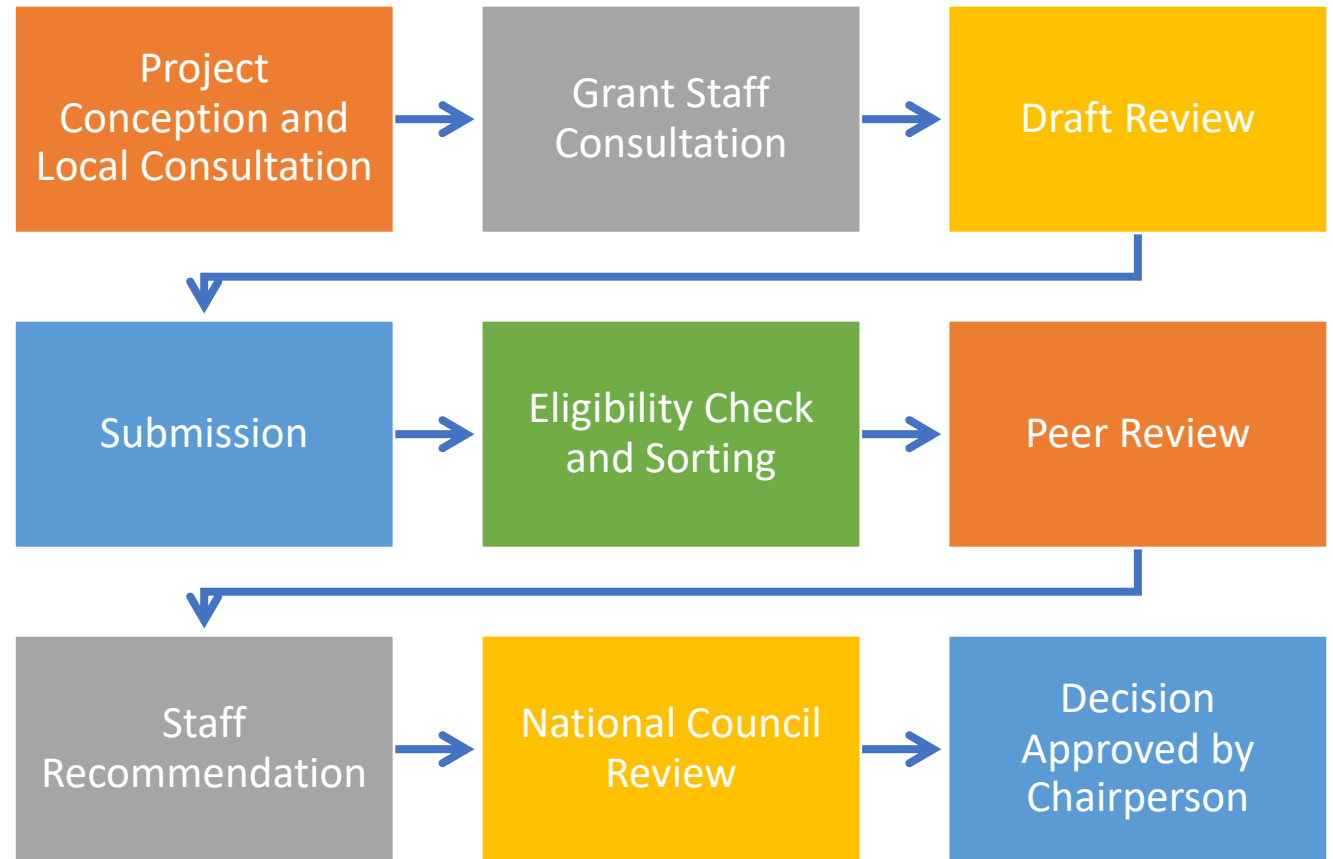
- [Dangers and Opportunities of Technology: Perspectives from the Humanities](#)

- Individuals (up to \$75,000)
 - Collaborations (up to \$150,000)

Recommended First Steps for Seeking a Major National Grant

- Research Funding Programs
 - What's out there?
 - DSSN can help!
- Review Past Awards
 - NEH and most other granting institutions provide the information of previously successful applications for review
 - Understand expectations and points of emphasis beyond what is spelled out in the CFP
 - Consulting with Grant Program Staff
 - Info sessions and webinars
 - Identify most appropriate program
 - Get feedback on points of emphasis or requirements
 - Open dialogue for further conversation or clarification
 - Draft submissions
 - DSSN can help!
- Submit draft for feedback if possible
 - DSSN can help!

Example: NEH Grant Process



Thank you!

We're here to help! If you are considering a digital scholarship research project or are looking for resources or support for an existing project at least partially housed or conducted at UB, please email nlwasmoe@buffalo.edu or dssn@buffalo.edu.

Please also keep us updated with your relevant publications, awards, and other achievements, which we would like to showcase on the DSSN site. If there are any workshop topics you would like to see presented in the future, let us know at one of the above emails.

All best,
Nikolaus Wasmoen

