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Area of Excellence Proposal Presentation

Area of Excellence Proposal Paper



Digital Humanities and Global Diversity:

Proposal for an Area of Excellence

May 1, 2015

Jessica Pressman (English)

Pamela Jackson (Library)

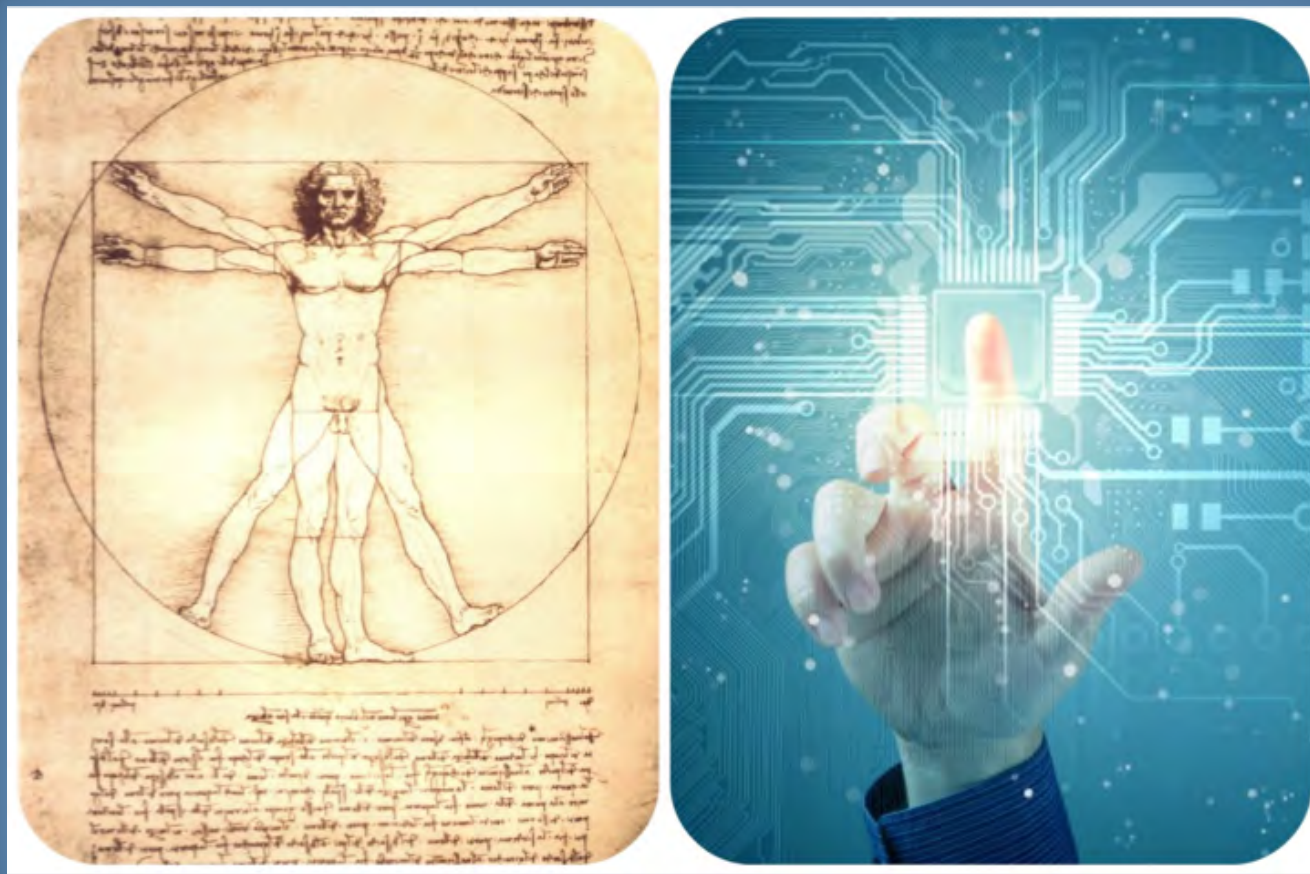
William Nericcio (English, MALAS)

Noah Arceneaux (Journalism and Media Studies)

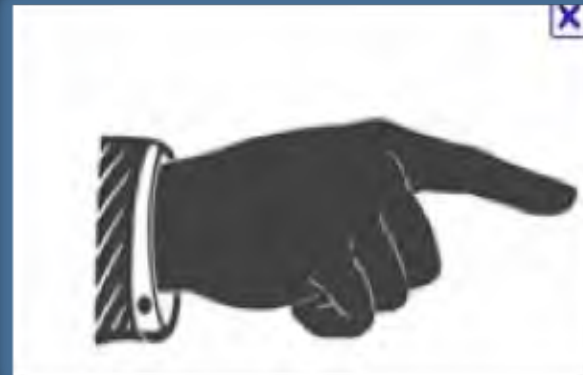
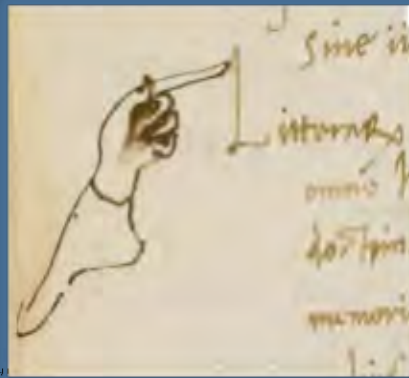
Mahasweta Sarkar (Electrical and Computer Engineering)

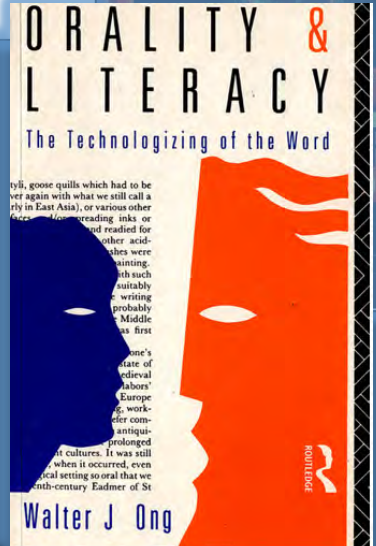
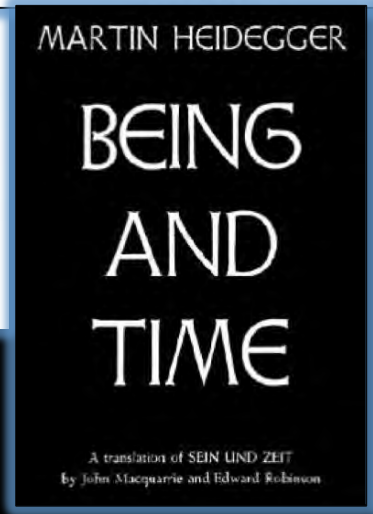
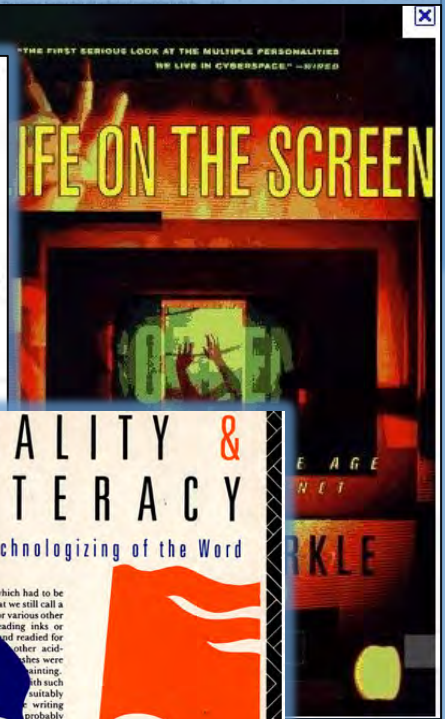
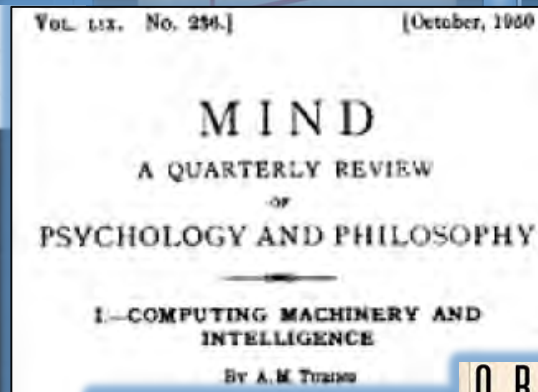
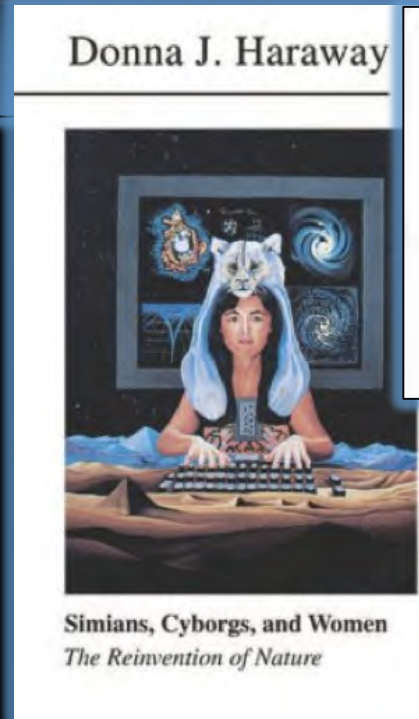
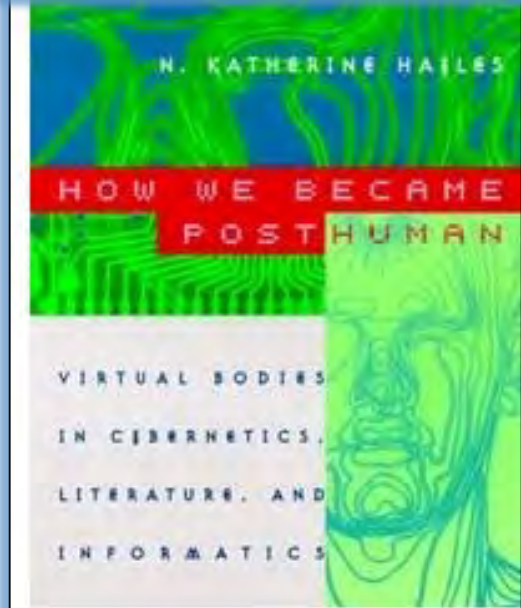
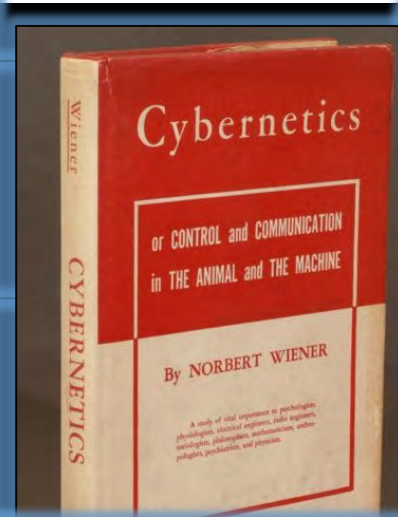
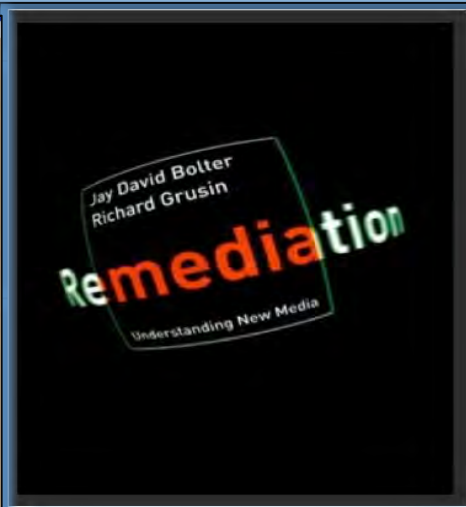
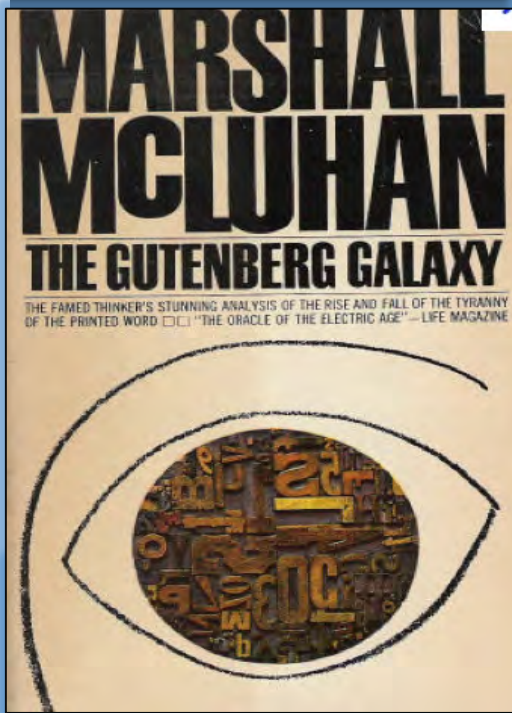
AXIOM 1

Technology and human consciousness operate in a feedback loop.



Media History as Human History





HEGEL'S *Phenomenology of Spirit*

TRANSLATED BY A.V. MILLER
WITH ANALYSIS OF THE TEXT
AND FOREWORD BY J.N. FINDLAY



Jean-Paul Sartre *Being and Nothingness*

The principal text of modern existence



THE SOULS OF BLACK FOLK

W.E.B. DU BOIS

feminist theory from margin to center

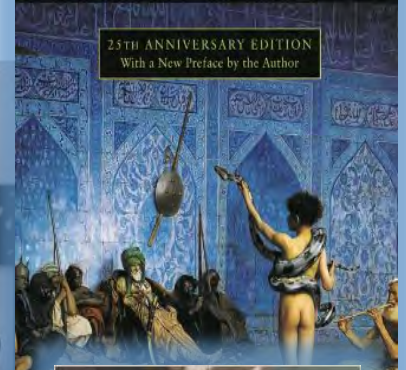
bell hooks



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Trinh T. Minh-ha

God IS Red

Vine Deloria, Jr.

Today's leading Indian spokesman offers
an alternative to Christianity
through a return to
Indian beliefs and concepts...
by the author of *Custer Died for Your Sins*
and *We Talk, You Listen*



Gloria Anzaldúa

Borderlands *La Frontera*

The New Mestiza



THIRD EDITION

GENDER TROUBLE

JUDITH BUTLER
FEMINISM AND THE
SUBVERSION
OF IDENTITY



SELECTED SUBALTERN STUDIES

BANAJI GUHA
GAYATRI CHAKRAVORTY SPIVAK

THE SECOND SEX

SIMONE DE BEAUVOIR

A Critique of Postcolonial Reason



TOWARD
A HISTORY
OF THE
VANISHING
PRESENT

Gayatri Chakravorty
SPIVAK

Our Research Questions:

- How are the impacts of the digital shift on knowledge, culture, media, and communication experienced across diverse human communities?
- How do digital technologies mediate and inform the movement of ideas, words, and bodies across cultural, racial, linguistic, and national boundaries?
- How are the costs and benefits of the digital shift distributed, and how do these patterns of distribution align with historic dynamics of power--colonial expansion, economic development, neoliberal economic globalization, and decolonization?

These questions are urgent because of the real politics and economies of the digital world:

- If the internet were a country, its GDP would rank fifth globally, according to an EU commission.
- Studies show US communities of color consume social media and data at higher rates than non-Hispanic whites. According to Pew Research, US African-Americans use Twitter at rates 200% higher than non-Hispanic whites; US African-Americans and Hispanics use Instagram at rates 60 – 80% higher than non-Hispanic whites; US African-Americans, Hispanics, and Asians are 20% more likely to use smartphones than non-Hispanic whites.
- The digital is changing global relations of production and flows of information, resources and labor—the very forces responsible for modern configurations of national, racial, religious, and ethnic identities, societies, cultures, and knowledge.

SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY

DIGITAL HUMANITIES

Our group is asking questions that will push the emerging field of digital humanities into a new era.

THE CENTER FOR DIGITAL HUMANITIES @PRINCETON

UCL CENTRE FOR DIGITAL HUMANITIES

AD HO ALLIANCE OF DIGITAL HUMANITIES ORGANIZATIONS

HASTAC Humanities, Arts, Science, and Technology Alliance and Collaboratory

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN

ROY ROSENZWEIG Center FOR History AND New Media

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

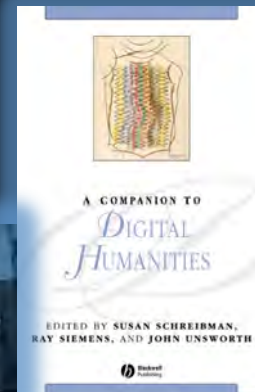
MITH MARYLAND INSTITUTE FOR TECHNOLOGY IN THE HUMANITIES

Center for Digital Research in the Humanities

What is digital humanities?

- Application of humanities research methodologies to digital phenomena
- Use of computational methods to pursue humanities research
- Collaborative, project-based research generated by digital models of networked knowledge

digital humanities quarterly

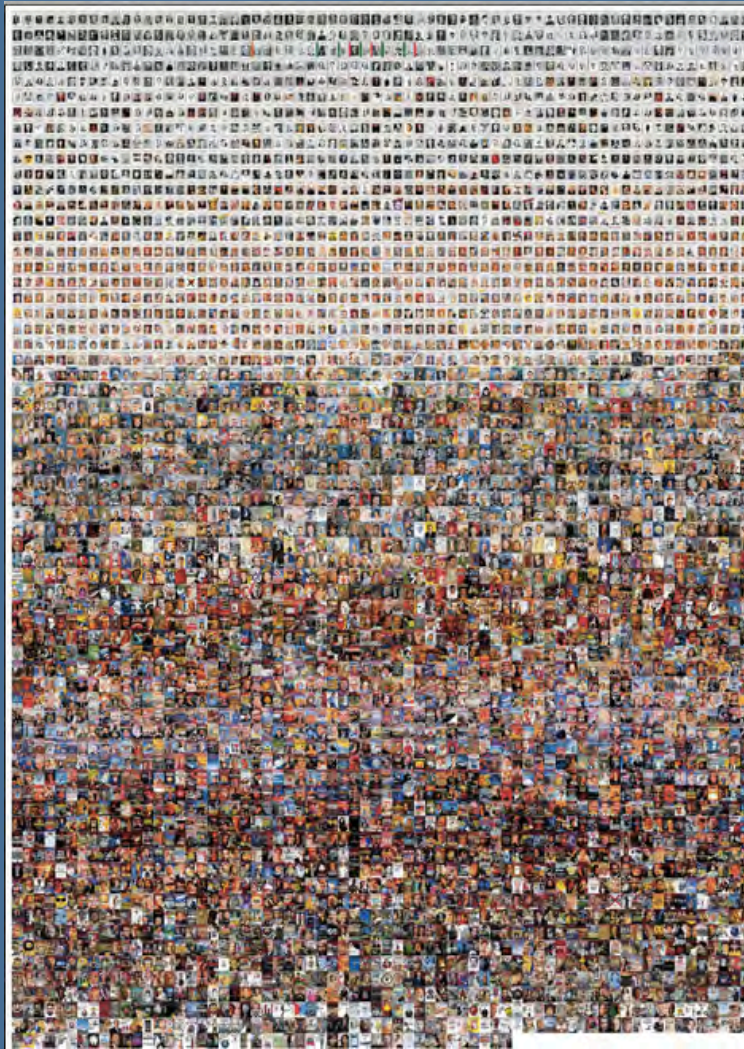


DH: application of humanities research methodologies to digital phenomena



START

DH: use of computational methods to pursue humanities research



Berlin 2003 Hypermedia Berlin

Places/People ↑ ↓

- Alexanderplatz
- Anhalter Bhf Ruin
- Bayerische Viertel Memorial
- Bebelplatz
- Bebelplatz Memorial
- Berlin Wall Remains and Memorial
- Brandenburg Gate
- Cement cylinder

overlay transparency

H toggle hotspots

● = pop-up

S = student

main map gallery

← 1850 1871 1905 1920 1936 1947 1962 1984 2003

urban development maps

← 1750 1800 1850 1880 1910 1940 1945 1986 1988

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April 2013 Update: Celebrating our Tenth Anniversary

DH: collaborative, interdisciplinary project-based research



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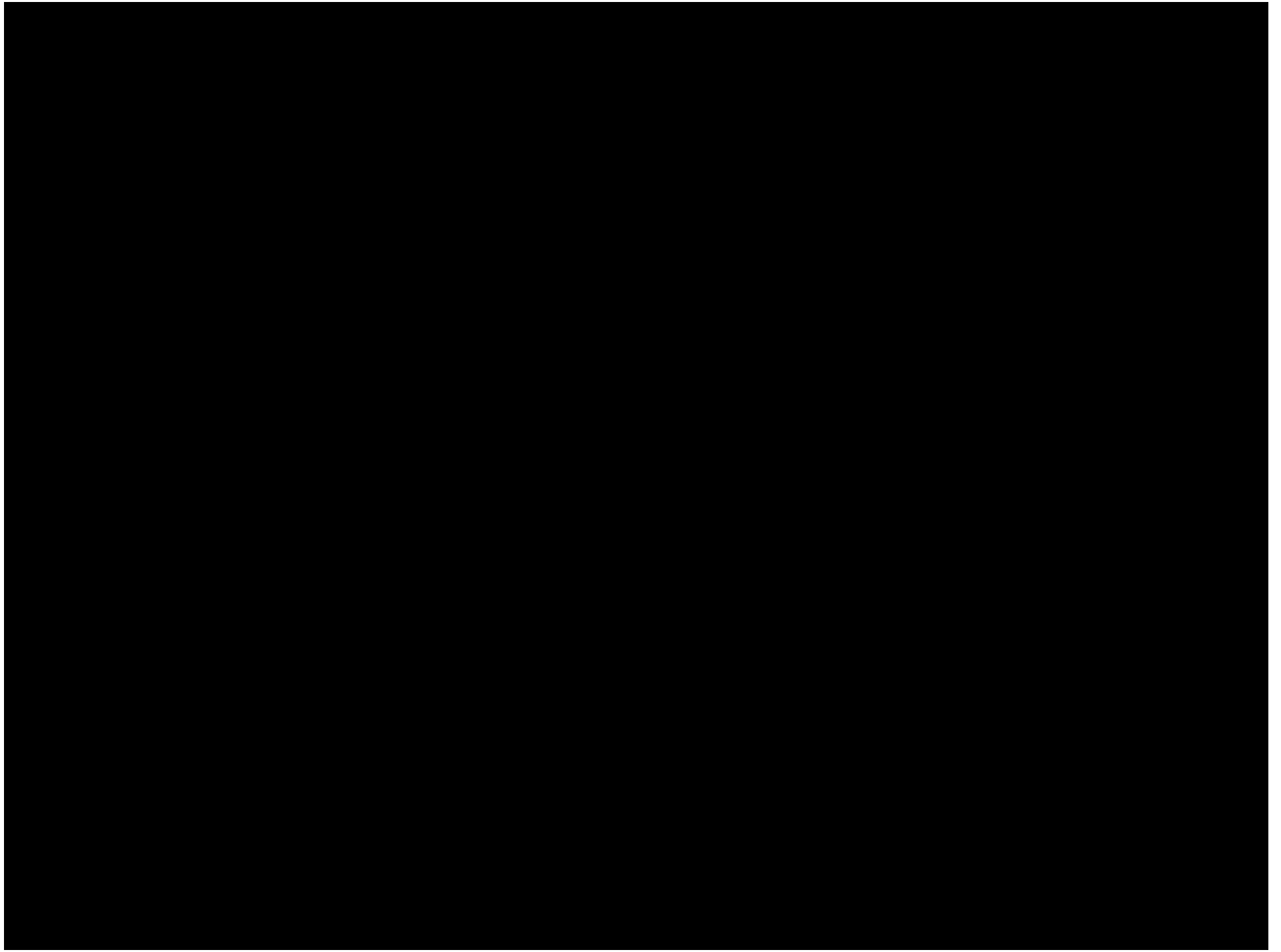
- [FemTechNet Blog](#)
- [FemTechNet Video Dialogues](#)
- [FemTechNet Keyword Videos](#)
- [FemTechNet Vimeo Channel](#)

About FemTechNet

Who?

FemTechNet is an activated network of scholars, artists, and students who work on, with, and at the borders of technology, science and feminism in a variety of fields including STS, Media and Visual Studies, Art, Women's, Queer, and Ethnic Studies.

Members in the network collaborate on the design and creation of projects of feminist technological innovation for the purposes of engaging the interests of colleagues and students on advanced topics in feminist science-technology studies. This project seeks to engender a set of digital practices among women and girls, to teach and encourage their participation in writing the technocultural histories of the future by becoming active participants in the creation of global digital archives.



The Gap, The Opportunity



- 40 university-based Digital Humanities programs in the U.S.:**
- 90% at private liberal arts colleges or large “R1” universities
 - none at Hispanic Serving Institutions
 - none center around global diversity



How this Area of Excellence will transform research here and across the nation:

- First Digital Humanities program to center around questions of global diversity
- First Digital Humanities program at an Hispanic-Serving Institution
- Transform theoretical frameworks for Digital Humanities by recentering research questions around perspectives of diversity
- Elicit and cultivate faculty expertise, through nationally-recognized innovative model of building Digital Humanities
- Expand site-specific model of building Digital Humanities
- Develop inroads between the humanities and community stakeholders

DIGITAL HUMANITIES

[HOMEPAGE](#)

[ABOUT US](#)

[EVENTS](#)

[WORKING GROUPS](#)

[PEOPLE](#)

“Digital Humanities” describes efforts to study digital technologies and culture, employ computational practices in research and teaching, and reflect upon the impact of the digital. The Digital Humanities Initiative at SDSU seeks to promote such critical engagement by providing a hub for strategic innovation and collaboration across campus.



Re/Boot

Our Digital Humanities “camp” for SDSU faculty returns on May 19, 2015. Sign up for a day of learning, sharing, and collaborating with colleagues!

[READ MORE >](#)



THATCamp

Over 150 digital humanists gathered at SDSU (October 24-25, 2014) and made our campus a central hub in the DHSocal network.

[READ MORE >](#)



CTL Learning Community

Yearlong working group developing innovative digital pedagogy and a community of teachers dedicated to innovation.

[READ MORE >](#)



Faculty Research Group

Our digital humanities community is developing from intellectual questions explored in our faculty research group meetings.

[READ MORE >](#)

Below are a few quotes from our core, affiliated faculty members testifying to the importance of the initiative:



"In less than one year, my entire approach to teaching, research, and graduate training in history has been transformed by my immersion in the digital humanities. The fruit has been obvious and tremendous: an article in a book with Oxford University Press, a pedagogy grant, and a sweeping transformation of my large U.S. history survey courses. For my teaching and research to continue to grow, I and my department need a Digital Humanities Center."

—Edward Blum, Professor of history, and author of award-winning books on American history, race, and religion



"One of the most important accomplishments of the Digital Humanities at SDSU has been to foster connections and collaborations among scholars across campus. It may seem like a paradox that an initiative based on the digital brings forth so much human connectivity, but that is exactly what I have experienced."

—Clarissa Clò, Associate Professor of Italian and European Studies



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

Humanities

OFFICE OF DIGITAL HUMANITIES

GRANT NEWS

Announcing 17 Digital Humanities Start-Up Grant Awards (March 2015)

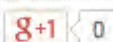
MARCH 24, 2015 | BY NEH STAFF



43



127



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EMAIL



PRINT

The Office of Digital Humanities is happy to announce 17 awards from our Digital Humanities Start-Up Grant program from our September 2014 deadline. These awards are part of a [larger slate of 232 grants just announced by the NEH.](#)

Congratulations to all the awardees for their terrific projects!

San Diego State University Research Foundation (San Diego, CA 92182)

Building and Broadening the Digital Humanities Through a Regional Network

Project Director: Jessica Pressman

Project Director: Joanna Brooks

Outright: \$29,999

To support: A year-long initiative bracketed by two workshops where faculty from teaching-intensive institutions would test best practices for teaching humanities content using digital methods in under-resourced classrooms.

Area of Excellence

Digital Humanities and Global Diversity

A Proposal for an Area of Excellence at San Diego State University, April 2015

The advent of digital technologies rivals the invention of the printing press in its impact on all aspects of human experience, and study of the digital compels innovation in research methods and perspectives as well as the forging of new partnerships to conduct this work. This application proposes a research Area of Excellence that will build upon the strengths of SDSU's faculty, regional location, and role as a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) to generate humanistic critical research about the digital shift with a specific focus on diversity. We view this as an opportunity to apply the networked model of digital technologies to build the existing network of faculty on campus whose research practices converge at the intersection of studies of the digital and human diversity and in adding key new network members to consolidate a uniquely powerful campus research group that will transform the national conversation on the impacts of the digital. We propose to create the first research-oriented digital humanities program in the nation focused on human and global diversity, as well as the first research-oriented digital humanities program at an HSI. While the economic power of the digital and data economies makes it certain that many universities will continue to launch initiatives that engage with the digital and data, our campus has an opportunity to truly demonstrate leadership by being the first to dedicate our critical engagement with the digital to guiding questions that reflect an authentic intellectual and institutional commitment to diversity. That is the goal of this proposal.

Digital technologies create new ways of seeing, knowing, and communicating, new modes of distributing resources, ideas, and information, and new interfaces for interaction among diverse human communities. This proposal for an area of excellence in Digital Humanities and Global Diversity builds on the recognition that technological innovation levies profound human consequences that must be understood through the methodologies of humanities research, including historiographical study of the past, critical theorization of the present, and creative vision for the future. Our proposed exploration into digital technologies recognizes that new digital tools for creation, distribution, and consumption are not diffused evenly across human societies. Additionally, quantitative research from consumer-research companies indicate significant differences in the way certain ethnic populations use these technologies. Admittedly, much of this prior research has been done within the framework of traditional marketing and advertising, with users perceived as potential consumers. Our research seeks to produce a higher grade of knowledge about the the social and cultural implications of diversity within the increasingly complex digital landscape and to generate new thinking about how technology can be used to address human challenges across diverse populations.

Over the past 18 months, SDSU has articulated and implemented an innovative new model for digital humanities scholarship by departing from traditional modes of digital humanities program building and instead fostering collaboration and momentum across a range of faculty. Our innovative approach has won the campus national attention and a start-up grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities's Office of Digital Humanities (NEH award rates: ~7%).

We now seek an opportunity to further distinguish SDSU on the national landscape by recruiting additional faculty who will enable us to undertake a uniquely focused approach to the interrelated cultural, intellectual, and epistemological dimensions of the digital. The questions that compel this collaborative and networked research, and thus propel this application, include:

1. How are the impacts of the digital shift on knowledge, culture, media, and communication experienced across diverse human communities?
2. How are global movements of people, resources, and ideas within the digital shaped by histories of empires, nations, and racial and ethnic groups?
3. How do digital technologies mediate and inform the movement of ideas, words, and bodies across cultural, racial, linguistic, and national boundaries?
4. How are the costs and benefits of the digital shift distributed, and how do these patterns of distribution align with historic dynamics of colonial expansion, economic development, neoliberal economic globalization, and decolonization?
5. How can humanities scholars work with engineers and programmers to create new applications of technology that improve human outcomes in diverse communities, including at SDSU?

SDSU's legacy as an institution serving a diverse student body and its location on an international border both oblige and empower us to ask and answer essential questions about how technological change intersects with global diversity, questions which no other digital humanities program in the country has taken on in a substantial way. As we do, we will distinguish our campus as a national leader in researching diversity in the digital age, and we will fill a significant gap in the emerging field of digital studies and digital humanities.