



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE
Humanities

OFFICE OF **DIGITAL HUMANITIES**

NEH/DFG BILATERAL DIGITAL HUMANITIES PROGRAM

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are the humanities?

According to the 1965 National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act, “The term ‘humanities’ includes, but is not limited to, the study of the following: language, both modern and classical; linguistics; literature; history; jurisprudence; philosophy; archaeology; comparative religion; ethics; the history, criticism and theory of the arts; those aspects of social sciences which have humanistic content and employ humanistic methods; and the study and application of the humanities to the human environment with particular attention to reflecting our diverse heritage, traditions, and history and to the relevance of the humanities to the current conditions of national life.”

What is the DFG?

The [Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft](#) (German Research Foundation, or DFG) is the central self-governing research-funding organization that promotes research at universities and other publicly financed research institutions in Germany. The DFG serves all branches of science and the humanities by funding research projects and facilitating cooperation among researchers.

May a non-U.S. institution or organization apply for a grant?

This unique DFG/NEH collaborative funding opportunity allows institutions to collaborate on an application and request joint funding from both agencies. If your application is successful, funding for the U.S. partner will be provided by NEH, while funding for the German partner will be provided by DFG. NEH does not provide support to foreign institutions or organizations.

If I receive NEH funding, may I also accept money from other sources?

Yes. Applicants are encouraged to seek other financial support. We do ask that you tell us about proposals to other funding sources, so that we can better understand the project's financial picture.

May I apply for more than one NEH grant for my project?

Yes, you may request additional support in a subsequent funding cycle.

If I intend to request additional NEH funding to continue my project, must I describe the project anew or will evaluators have access to the earlier grant proposal?

NEH treats all applications as new applications. Evaluators will not have access to the previous application; therefore, proposals for renewed funding must discuss the project anew. Be sure to describe the work accomplished with previous NEH funding and be clear about the specific activities and products of the new grant.

Will NEH accept late applications?

No. To be considered, an application must be accepted by Grants.gov at or before the deadline.

Who will read my grant application?

Peer reviewers with various specialties will review your proposal. You should therefore show how the project relates to scholarship in the project's field, and describe its methodology with reference to current standards and best practices. However, you should also explain the goals and procedures to nonspecialists in simple, understandable terms.

What kind of detail should be included in the work plan?

Explain the tasks for the project staff and provide a schedule for the completion of the work, which may be presented as a narrative or a chart. Depending on the project, the description of the work plan may be organized by type or duration of activity (for example, three-month intervals). The plan should be presented in enough detail to demonstrate that you have thoroughly considered each step of the project and that you are ready to begin. By describing in detail the responsibilities of the project personnel, you will justify the corresponding allocation of staff time, as shown in the project budget, and the qualifications and experience required of the project staff, as reflected in résumés and job descriptions.

Should I have consultants and a board of advisers set up and committed before I apply?

You should have consultants committed, if possible. Many projects require early consultation with scholarly advisers and technical experts to plan for the implementation. The collaboration of highly qualified and experienced individuals makes it more likely that evaluators will endorse an application. Although you need not assemble a board of advisors, reviewers may conclude that the existence of a well-staffed board demonstrates a project's interest in obtaining appropriate scholarly advice.

My application was unsuccessful. Is there anything I may do to increase my chances for success next time?

You may request copies of the evaluators' comments. A revised application should take into consideration the issues that they raised. However, a resubmitted application will be reviewed by persons who will not have knowledge of or access to the previous application file.