Texas State University Libraries Digital Fellows Program

Fellowship Overview

Texas State University Libraries are initiating a Digital Library Fellows program to create innovative new digital scholarly content by awarding grants to faculty interested in developing digital resources from their own research or resources to which they have copyright. The Libraries will provide funding, digitization, programming and technological support to Texas State University faculty for the creation and online delivery of digital libraries, online exhibits, digital archives, online scholarly resources or a combination of the above. The Libraries are seeking projects that will have a significant impact on learning, and research, and encourage projects which would include student participation and would benefit from online exposure and public access for global reach.

All disciplines are invited and research content is at the discretion of faculty members. The division especially encourages researchers who are involved in science and STEM research but all disciplines will be considered. Examples of digital libraries, online exhibits, multimedia archives currently produced by the libraries Digital and Web Services are available to review below:

Cabeza de Vaca IIIF Digital Manuscript Archive
National Tour of Texas Multimedia Archive
Severo Perez's and the Earth Did Not Swallow Them Digital Exhibit and Archive
University Archives Pedagogs Digital Library
Santiago Tafolla Online Exhibit and Manuscript Digitization
Texas State University Bobcat Flickr Commons

The division also support data related projects with connections possible to the Texas State University Dataverse.

Supported projects will result in open access on-line resources designed to have long-term relevance to Texas State faculty, students and the larger global scholarly research community. To ensure long-term access to resources created, all digital content will be produced in adherence to state-of-the-art digital standards, technical specifications and copyright standards.

Eligibility

These competitive Digital Library Fellowships are open to full-time, regular (tenured, tenure track or non-tenured) Texas State University faculty and advanced stage Ph.D. candidates (ABD or recently graduated Texas State Ph.D.'s, three years or less) interested in developing innovative digital resources. Selected fellows should be able to meet at least bi-weekly with library staff on the San Marcos campus during the year of the fellowship and must commit to completing the project as outlined in the scope on a one year timeline.

Funding

Up to three Fellowships will be awarded with a maximum of $25,000/fellowship for one year.

Project Selection

Selected projects will result in the creation of online scholarly, internet-based digital resources that meet the following criteria:
1) Represents a significant new contribution to online research, resources and/or original content
2) Provides access to traditional research and resources in new ways and is accessible to a global scholarly audience
3) Generates a new scholarly experience online
4) Contributes to teaching and learning at an academic level relevant to the Texas State
5) Contributes original and/or gathered research for an international scholarly community.

Proposal Format

The proposal must include the following parts and should not be longer than 15 pages (not counting the applicants CV) :

1) one paragraph abstract of the project;
2) A two to three-page narrative describing the proposal;
3) Current CV of the applicant or applicant(s);
4) A detailed project budget;
5) An outline of participants and their respective levels of engagement;
6) A brief project management plan with scope, stakeholders and time lines for the accomplishment of stated project goals;
7) One or two letters of support from colleagues, department chair and/or dean stating the scholarly value of the project.

Proposal Tips

Writing the Narrative. The narrative section should describe both the relevance of the project in terms of scholarly research and the research community, including a brief description of how the digital content created by the project relates to teaching, scholarship and research. The narrative should specify whether the content to be presented already exists in a digital form, needs to be converted from analog formats and whether similar projects already exist online and where this project makes a new intervention. Projects that make use of a combination of digital images, audio, video, text and data and incorporate a spectrum of multimedia in innovative ways are particularly encouraged. Please review online examples noted above for possibility and feel free to contact Alkek Library Head of Digital and Web Services Todd Peters (tpeters@txstate.edu) for any preliminary technical questions.

Copyright Control. All applicants should hold general copyright to the material to be digitized. Material should be in the public domain or copyright may be easily obtained by the faculty member. For questions of copyright and rights, the libraries copyright officer Stephanie Towery may be consulted (sst25@txstate.edu).   Prospective library fellows should resolve as much as possible potential copyright questions in their proposals before applying.

Budgeting and Scope. Strong preference will be given to projects with realistic budget proposals, pragmatic timelines and a well-defined scope. Applicants should consider the scope of the work to be done, time required to complete the work. Budgeting for student workers, on the undergraduate and/or graduate level, is encouraged but not mandatory. While fellow applicants may utilize funds for travel to complete gathering/researching materials, the majority of material for a fellow's proposed digitization project should consist of materials already in their possession. Applicants are strongly discouraged from including budget allocations which contribute funds to their own salaries or time.

Library Participation. Applicants are encouraged to craft proposals which would support the Texas State University libraries mission to advance innovation in information technology, digital scholarship and scholarly communication. Candidates are also encouraged to align their proposals with the libraries goal of transforming into a research library (ARL) and the Universities goal of transforming into a research intensive institution. Research intensive projects with a variety of media content resources that may be shared online are especially encouraged.

Work Space. Work space for fellows, student workers and work stations for projects will be made available to Digital Fellows. Applicants are encouraged to collaborate with their departments to provide additional office space and work stations to project contributors if necessary. For projects working directly with locally held archival materials, space may also be made available in the Libraries for the project principals for office work.

Consultations. Faculty with questions about project plans or the proposal process are welcome beforehand. Please feel free to contact Ray Uzwyshyn, Director of Collections and Digital Services, R_U15@txstate.edu

Review Procedures

A committee of reviewers made up of administrators and technologists in the libraries' digital projects areas will review each proposal and select those that best meet the stated goals of the Digital Library Fellows program.

Award Criteria and Obligations

Recipients will be expected to complete their project within their defined scope within a year of their starting date. Fellows will also be expected to share their experiences with other faculty through a library sponsored colloquium within six months of completing the projects as well as authoring at least one written article, acknowledging the Libraries in any publications, printed materials, or websites that result from the grant. Award money may be used by fellows for innovative 1-2 day colloquia to promote the final online research product (i.e. digital library, archive, multimedia exhibit) and to develop further networks with global experts. The libraries will do their best to assign project work teams to help fellows carry out technical aspects of their projects. Once awarded, fellows will be able to avail

themselves of are expected to work in partnership with the Libraries various areas of technical expertise (technologists, programmers, digitization experts, metadata cataloguers, project managers). This will range from developing a detailed and innovative timetable and more detailed project plan of work from their accepted proposal to oversite and consultation with various library staff in order to ensure successful completion of their projects, and to develop a presence on the Libraries Digital Collections website.

Further Notes on Intellectual Property Rights

Working with Legacy Materials. Digital Fellowship applicants should ensure that they hold general rights to publish the materials in their proposals in an open access on-line format or that the materials are within fair use copyright strictures. In practice, this means that Fellows work with materials in the public domain, own copyright to the materials in question, or allocate funds to purchase permission from the respective copyright holder to publish the materials online.

Creating new Intellectual Content. Intellectual property rights for content produced during Digital Fellowships, including digital files, online exhibits, digital libraries, digital archives, multimedia applications, or other innovations, are governed by the policies defined by Texas State University Libraries and Texas State University.

Application Deadline: December 5, 2018.

Applications may be received by mail or email and electronic applications are preferred. For any further questions and to apply, please contact:

Ray Uzwyshyn
Director, Collections and Digital Services
Texas State University
601 University Drive, 350L Alkek Library
San Marcos, TX 78666
(512) - 245-5687, ruzwyshyn@txstate.edu