

We are pleased to announce this year's round of Calls to support new and innovative digital humanities research within the Faculty of Humanities. This year's Call seeks expressions of interest for new DH research projects, directed towards professional development and external collaborations.

The closing date for this Call is **Monday 26th February**.

Digital Humanities Project Development Call, 2017-18

We would like to invite expressions of interest from academics in the Faculty of Humanities to develop new projects in their research areas. As in previous years, we invite proposals which could be developed in partnership with colleagues in the School of Computer Science, or with other computational partners from across the University. Possible areas might include network or other data visualizations, imaging/image recognition, text and data mining, GIS, literary and linguistic analysis, and/or bespoke applications related to individuals' research.

Rather than individuals bidding for their own project funds, the DH Project Call is designed to manage the process centrally, so as to be able to better assess user requirements and find the appropriate partners within the University. In this way, we are able to bring together colleagues working in similar technical fields and thereby share expertise and best practice across the institution.

With this Call we are explicitly seeking to build longer-term strategic research partnerships and collaboration at all levels between the Faculty of Humanities and School of Computer Science. To this end, we are also looking to identify specific humanities-focused research projects (in any area), which would be suitable subjects for final-year UG and MSc-level dissertation work, to run over the academic year 2017/18. **Please indicate in your application if you would like your proposal to be put forward for this scheme.**

How to apply:

Colleagues interested in participating should submit a short description of their intended project, to include details both of their area of research specialism within FoH, and the technical requirements of their intended project, in as much detail as possible. The scheme is open both to projects at the initial planning stage, and those which are already underway but which may require more intervention; full technical specifications are therefore **not** necessary at this stage, as they will be developed in due course in discussion with technical partners. Financial estimates of costs may be included, but are not a formal requirement, as the project scheme will be managed centrally.

Applications should be submitted by email to the Digital Humanities Administrator, Josephine Lewis, at josephine.lewis-2@manchester.ac.uk, by **26th February 2018**. Informal enquiries may be directed to Dr Guyda Armstrong, Faculty Academic Lead for Digital Humanities (guyda.armstrong@manchester.ac.uk).

Selection criteria:

We hope to be able to offer technical support to all projects submitted to this call, but may need to prioritize the order in which they are assigned depending on the volume of applications. Preference will therefore be given to projects that clearly and convincingly demonstrate how the project applied for will enhance research outputs, align with the wider research strategy of Faculty and the University; increase grant capture; build on existing computational expertise; and/or create new networks of collaboration within the University.

All applications will be reviewed by a sub-group of the Digital Humanities Steering Committee, in discussion with representatives from ITS, Research IT, UML, Methods@Manchester, and the School of Computer Science. Please note that although the scheme is managed from SALC, applications are encouraged from colleagues in all five Schools of the Faculty of Humanities.

Applications will be ranked on merit against criteria based on the extent to which they:

- Demonstrate the potential for Digital Humanities to make a meaningful contribution to the applicant's School's research culture
- Improve the chances of securing external funding
- Increase the academic and/or non-academic impact of the individual/group's research, and

- Provide good value for money.

Applications should include:

- The name and contact details of the lead researcher(s)
- An account of the proposed activity to be supported (up to 500 words)
- A narrative explaining how the bid meets the criteria and the added value the investment would bring to the individual, research grouping, or School (in no more than 250 words)
- A note whether the applicant would like their research to be put forward for consideration as a Computer Science dissertation project.

After reviewing applications, we will set up individual meetings for successful applicants with nominated computational partners to scope and build their projects. A brief (interim or final) report (no more than one side of A4) should be submitted by **Monday 1st October 2018**. This should identify and describe specific benefits and outcomes resulting from the award, and outline plans for any further developments and initiatives. We may use selected reports as the basis to publicise the benefits of the scheme. All successful recipients will also be asked to share their findings in a future digital humanities workshop.

Eligibility:

All research-active staff in the Faculty of Humanities (that is, those with research listed in their employment contract as an expectation), including postdoctoral researchers. Two or more individuals may combine forces and submit a joint application. Exceptions to the eligibility criteria may be considered if the case is strong, and on a case-by-case basis.