# JRRI Digital Humanities Project Start-up Grant 2017/8

**Application deadline: 5pm on Thursday 30th November 2017**

**Applications should be e-mailed to:** [**jrri@manchester.ac.uk**](mailto:jrri@manchester.ac.uk)

**Overview**

This grant is to set up a new digital research project or test a new digital research tool using the Special Collections of the University of Manchester Library.

Digital Humanities scholarship is dynamic and rapidly evolving. Special Collections lie at the heart of many of the most exciting developments. Yet there remain barriers around the time and resources needed in the early stages of the project. Those new to DH require hands-on practice and/or specialist technical support; even those with more experience must test new tools.

The JRRI DH Project Start-up Grant is open to both those with extensive experience and those new to digital scholarship. It can provide bespoke technical support and funding to facilitate projects. We welcome applications from i) researchers (including PhD students and early career researchers) or Library staff at the University or Manchester, or ii) early career researchers from another university.

**Possible areas might include (but not limited to):**

* Network or other data visualisations
* Text and data mining
* GIS and mapping
* Literary and linguistic analysis
* Materials analysis using advanced imaging techniques
* Bespoke applications related to an individual’s or group’s research project

**What will the applicant receive?**

* A maximum of £5,000 will be awarded per application
* For University of Manchester research staff: buy out from teaching or administrative duties
* For early career researchers outside Manchester: a maximum of £1,500 per month for up to 3 months to cover travel, accommodation and living expenses during the Fellowship
* Technical support, if required
* Support from expert curators, conservators and imaging specialists
* Support from the Institute grant writer in developing a larger externally funded project linked to the start-up grant

The grant will not cover:

* Attendance at external training events and conferences
* Digital projects whose primary focus is teaching and learning
* Projects whose primary focus is digitisation, though some digitisation may take place as part of the project
* Projects which do not use the Special Collections of the University of Manchester

**Eligibility:**

* Researchers and Library staff at the University of Manchester
* Early career researchers from outside the University of Manchester
* Team applications are possible, if all applicants meet the eligibility criteria

Please ask the JRRI office if you are unsure about the eligibility of other forms of expense. University of Manchester applicants should contact their own research or administrative office to calculate costings.

**Assessment criteria:**

All applications are assessed by the Institute Directors in consultation with curators, academics and computational partners with relevant expertise. 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 research using the UML Special Collections
* Improve the chances of securing external funding
* Increase the academic and/or non-academic impact of the individual / team’s research
* Build new collaborations with or within the University of Manchester
* Build capacity in Digital Humanities

Prior technical knowledge and expertise do not form part of the assessment criteria.

**Application process:**

Application forms are available at: <http://www.jrri.manchester.ac.uk/research/funding/>

The completed application form should include:

* The names and affiliation of the application team with contact details for the lead applicant (who will serve as the grant holder, if successful).
* A short summary of the relevant experience of each person involved (approx. 500 words).
* Details of the intended project to include: title, start and end dates, objectives, methodology, outputs.
* An outline of the sources from the UML Special Collections to be consulted/ utilised.
* Future plans for the research project which must include grant capture.
* Brief up to date curriculum vitae and list of relevant publications (max. 2 pages each).
* The technical requirements of the proposed project, in as much detail as possible (NB. Full technical specifications are not needed at this stage).
* Financial estimates of costs should be included, but will be subject to review and modification by the assessment panel.

Pre-application advice is available from the Director of the JRRI, Hannah Barker ([hannah.barker@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:hannah.barker@manchester.ac.uk)) or the JRRI grant writer, Chloe Jeffries ([chloe.jeffries@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:chloe.jeffries@manchester.ac.uk)).

Advice on the UML Special Collections and on previous applications of Digital Humanities tools with UML Special Collections can also be directed to Jane Gallagher, Special Collections Librarian (Rare Books and Digital Humanities) [jane.gallagher@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:jane.gallagher@manchester.ac.uk)

**What will the Institute expect from the applicant?**

* All awarded DH Project Start-Up funding must be spent before 31 July **2018** and claim forms must also be submitted by this date.
* A short report at the end of their project.
* An application for follow-on funding based on the research supported by the DH Project Start-Up Grant to an external grant awarding body by an agreed date.