Hope College Mellon Scholars

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Mellon Scholars, Phase II
The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has awarded Hope College a grant of $500,000 to support the continuation of the Mellon Scholars Program. This funding will support students and faculty mentors engaging in research that combines traditional scholarly methods, creative production, and new technologies.

Our 2013 Graduates

Athina Alvarez, whose research combined her majors in French and Art History, is living and working in Paris. A Spanish major and partner in the Women Surrealist Artists project, Tessa Angell will spend the year in Spain on a teaching Fulbright.

No more Indiana Jones warehouses where research is locked away, never to be seen again.

No more Casaubon’s Key to All Mythology produced by a single scholar in isolation, out of date before it is complete.

Student Projects
Linked on our web page

William Pannapacker, Director
Julia Randel, Associate Director

Why Digital Liberal Arts?

Digital Humanities (DH) refers to “an emerging field of humanities scholarship, teaching, and practice that is grounded in digital sources, methods, tools, and platforms” (Gold), which it uses to expand the scope and impact of humanistic inquiry. Digital Liberal Arts (DLA) applies these to the broader learning goals of undergraduate education, including critical thinking, creativity, and effective communication.

DH/DLA: Some General Goals

Collaboration and Dissemination: Stimulate active scholarly conversations; engage the public as partners. Create new forms of scholarship in new mediums.

Innovation: Use digital tools to ask new questions and generate new answers.

Improve Teaching and Learning: Adopt high-impact educational practices such as collaborative research. Cultivate both the traditional and the digital.

Professional and Public Service: Build a new scholarly infrastructure and create resources that serve more diverse local and global needs.

Alternative Career Paths: Develop sustainable alternatives to the tenure track, while working to expand what “counts” for tenure and promotion.

Strengthen the Humanities (and allied fields): Justify ongoing support from institutions, the government, and the public, including students and parents.

Getting Started in DH


Tools: Google Ngram viewer, Omeka.

Training: Digital Humanities Summer Institute.

Reading: Debates in the Digital Humanities (ed. M. Gold); W. Pannapacker, “No More Indiana Jones Warehouses,” and “Stop Calling It the Digital Humanities” (CHE).

DLA=Engagement in Learning

“High Impact Educational Practices” (George D. Kuh).

Undergraduate Research

Collaborative Assignments and Projects

Common Intellectual Experiences

Service Learning

Diversity Experiences/Global Learning

Learning Communities

Capstone Courses and Projects

From “student” to “researcher” to “project manager.”

New Initiatives

Startup Funding for Digital Projects to promote long-term, interdisciplinary projects that will support existing courses and involve students in and outside the Mellon program.

Postdoctoral Fellowship in DH to provide training and support for students and faculty in digital scholarship.

The Philadelphia Center will offer Digital Humanities in the Workplace, where students take a DH course and develop a digital project in the context of an internship.

Partnerships

Hope has a leadership role in the GLCA’s Digital Liberal Arts Initiative, a collaborative faculty development program which will provide funding for digital projects. Hope is affiliated with the National Institute for Technology in Liberal Education (NITLE) and the PRAXIS Network of institutions developing new models for humanities education and research. We have initiated a faculty development partnership with the Matrix Digital Humanities Center at MSU. Locally, the Theil Research Center will involve Mellon students in its interactive local history project.