Digital Humanities in Extraordinary Times

Call for Proposals

We invite people working in the digital humanities to submit proposals to the Digital Humanities Collaborative-North Carolina Fall 2020 Virtual Institute.

One initiative of the 2020 Fall Institute is to showcase ways that digital projects and practices have intersected with our lived experiences during this time of disruption, whether at work, at school, at home, or in the communities we inhabit. From the CODIV 19 pandemic, Black Lives Matter protests, and call on all levels for social and economic justice, we are experiencing what seems a historic period of upheaval. This year has been challenging, painful, but in some ways inspiring.

According to UNESCO, “billions of people are turning to culture as a source of comfort, well-being and connection” even as 128 countries have closed galleries, museums, and other cultural sites. The OECD likewise notes that “cultural content contributes to mental health and well-being,” particularly when people are cut off from other connections.

Possible questions the context raises might include:

- How do digital humanities projects and collaboratives document unprecedented times? How do we decide what and who to include and represent? How do projects serve communities? In what ways are stakeholders included?
- What projects have begun that address some of the issues we have faced this year and may face in the future?
- How can digital humanities projects remain viable sources of historic information about any significant period?
- What innovations will occur as we figure new ways of reaching out? What new digital humanities contribute to recognizing and addressing experiences of loneliness, struggle, misery, togetherness, and joyfulness?
• How can arts and culture organizations help their communities during these time and how communities can support their arts and cultural organizations?

We also welcome proposals that address digital humanities in a broader sense.

• What are some best practices, beyond the general advice, to clarify your project’s purpose and engage potential audiences?

• What are best practices to facilitate gathering in virtual communal spaces?

• In participatory projects, how do we facilitate highly complex or emotionally charged conversations?

• What new tools and platforms are we adding to our practice

**Lightning Talks:** Proposals for lightning talks up to 10 minutes about projects completed or in process. Please provide a 100-200 word abstract

**Individual/team Presentations:** Proposals for one or more speakers. Each individual presentation should be planned for 20 minutes with 10 minutes of Q & A. Please provide 250 to 300-word abstracts for an individual presentation or a group presentation.

**Workshops:** Proposals for 75-minute facilitate workshops focused on tools, techniques, teaching, managing projects, or other topics.


East Carolina University will be serving as the digital host of the Institute. For questions or additional information, please contact Donna Kain at kaind@ecu.edu

**The Digital Humanities Collaborative of North Carolina** is a community of practice of digital humanities scholarly, technical, and creative practitioners, teachers, and learners. The mission of the Digital Humanities Collaborative of North Carolina is to promote digital humanities projects and practices across North Carolina in an inclusive and equitable fashion.

For additional information about DHC—NC, visit our website at [https://dhcnc.org/about-us/](https://dhcnc.org/about-us/)