

Dear Purdue University Libraries team,

I'm a digital humanist with an Information M.S. (University of Michigan), new Literature Ph.D. (University of Maryland), and over eight years as a professional DH web developer and public-focused DH scholar, working since 2009 in multiple staff roles at the Maryland Institute for Technology in the Humanities ([MITH](#)). I write to apply for the Digital Humanities Specialist role.

As an example of my work, my recent dissertation project is [InfiniteUlysses.com](#)—an interface that brings scholars, teachers, and readers of all backgrounds together in annotating and discussing a challenging book, personalizing the annotations displayed to any given reader by their backgrounds, interests, and needs. *Infinite Ulysses* achieved sizable impact for a literature dissertation, with over 13,000 unique visitors during its first month of open beta. The challenge of helping *everyone* feel empowered to participate in the humanities drives my research and project design.

Successfully completing a non-monograph dissertation taught me how to champion others embarking on digital scholarship, both in educating their colleagues on their digital work, and in the practical aspects of project design, technical learning, and planning for the full life cycle of the project. I dealt with this last—DH long-term thinking and digital preservation—as MITH's Webmaster, auditing our two servers full of projects, files, and databases ranging back to 1999, and in my training and experience doing digital preservation work with MITH's early e-lit collection.

My work has always been interdisciplinary in both topic and methodology. A few of my diverse past DH projects include:

- Co-organizing the first digital humanities and games unconference (THATCamp Games)
- Developer on the "[Making DH More Open](#)" team's [Braille Wordpress plugin](#)
- [Data visualization and topic modeling](#) of *Digital Humanities Quarterly* to explore DH citation networks (recipient of the inaugural ACH Microgrant)
- Team teaching and design of a DH course for UMD's [Digital Cultures and Creativity](#) undergrads
- Librarian-aimed user testing and documentation for [BitCurator](#)'s archival digital forensics tools

I offer excellent communication, teaching, and presentation skills, and am especially deft at research use of social media (over 2,000 Twitter followers) and blogging (over 22,000 unique blog visitors to date). I've worked in a number of pertinent roles: as a librarian and digital archivist, university teacher and student, web developer, and DH center staff, as well as alongside others in these roles. This background gives me inside experience of the different needs and values of these important scholarly constituents. After working on interdisciplinary teams for six years at one of the world's top digital humanities research centers, I'm a skilled translator between tech and non-tech colleagues, and my research best thrives through collaboration.

I'd love to discuss how my background in digital humanities service, training, research, and building would complement the Purdue University Libraries' learner-centered mission! Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best,
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Tech Portfolio: [AmandaVisconti.com](#)
Latest Project: [InfiniteUlysses.com](#)
Research Blog: [LiteratureGeek.com](#)
DH Tweeting: [@Literature_Geek](#)
[On GitHub](#) and [my most active repo](#)