

May 14, 2019

Office of Digital Humanities  
National Endowment for the Humanities  
400 7th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20506

Dear Members of the Search Committee,

I am writing to apply for the position of Program Specialist in the Office of Digital Humanities at the National Endowment for the Humanities. I am a postdoctoral fellow at Brown University with expertise in digital humanities, book history, and archival studies. I hope to apply my background in project management and scholarly communications for collaborative digital humanities projects to the work of advising, evaluating, and administering grants at the ODH.

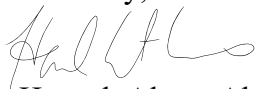
After many years working with grant-funded projects, I want to work at the NEH because I want to facilitate the ongoing support of project-based research. As a graduate student, I authored and was awarded an NEH-ODH grant to develop tools for the automatic transcription of early modern printed books. Through *Reading the First Books*, I learned to develop a grant budget, manage multi-institutional partnerships, and scope research projects in the humanities. Since then, I have taught grant writing to graduate students, consulted on grant-funded projects, and reviewed grant proposals at the NEH ODH and the University of Texas. I will bring this experience to the NEH alongside a serious commitment to the role of grant-funded projects in sustaining exploratory, collaborative, and transformative research.

Documentation, assessment, and outreach are central to my digital humanities work. As project manager for *Reading the First Books* and the *Digital AHPN*, a digital archive from Guatemala, I worked to share the challenges and successes of digital research through public speaking, writing, and data curation. I also partnered with collaborators to develop mechanisms for documentation and evaluation, both through internal documentation and through public facing documents like the “People’s Paper,” an open access report on budgets, labor, workflows, and aspirations for early modern OCR. I am excited to participate in the evaluation of digital humanities work, to develop reporting and assessment mechanisms for grant recipients, and to write publicly about the work of the Office of Digital Humanities.

I have long been committed to public advocacy for the humanities. Through conference presentations and invited talks, I speak publicly about the methods, structures, and resources that enable humanistic enterprise. I also work to improve transparency around research and funding structures through projects like the *Postdoctoral Laborers*, a group I founded dedicated to articulating best practices around contingent employment, and through my more than 2000 Twitter followers. This work has prioritized identifying structural change that can make the humanities a more diverse and inclusive space. I want to work at the NEH because of its role in advocating for the humanities and pushing for a more inclusive academic world.

With this letter you will find my resume, transcript, and a writing sample. I am happy to provide additional materials on request.

Sincerely,



Hannah Alpert-Abrams