THE DIGITAL HUMANITIES

- Digital technology has changed the way scholars perform their work. It allows new questions to be raised and has radically changed the ways in which materials can be searched, mined, displayed, taught, and analyzed.
- Technology has an enormous impact on how scholarly materials are preserved and accessed, on the ways in which educators acquire information and communicate it to their students, and on the methods of conveying the humanities to the American public.

THE MISSION

- Through its Office of Digital Humanities, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) seeks to play a leadership role in the encouragement and support of digital technologies that advance Americans' understanding of the humanities.
- NEH is exploring the use of digital tools to enhance scholarship and make humanities resources more accessible to all citizens.

THE PROGRAMS

NEH supports a wide variety of digital humanities projects through its existing grant programs and through new, digitally focused grant opportunities. Funding is provided to:

- Support individual research through digital fellowships
- Create digital humanities tools for analyzing and manipulating humanities data, or a digital or online version of a scholarly edition
- Start new digital projects and develop standards and best practices for digital humanities
- Create, search, and maintain digital archives
- Enhance an institution's ability to use new technologies in research, education, preservation, and public programming in the humanities
- Study the history and impact of digital technology
- Develop digitized resources for teaching the humanities, such as a Web site or other digital project for a general public audience or to accompany a museum exhibition or television program

INTERAGENCY AND INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

By collaborating with scholars and funding bodies both in the United States and abroad, NEH is working to address the challenges posed by the intersection of technology and the humanities.

- NEH has entered into international partnerships with agencies in England and Germany to support joint digitization projects, symposia, and workshops in the humanities.
- In partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services, NEH has initiated major initiatives that will advance the agencies' shared interest in promoting greater use of digital technologies and applications in the nation's museums and libraries.
- NEH has begun a partnership with the US Department of Energy under which the Department will make available to humanities scholars the enormous computing capabilities of its supercomputers.

FUNDING

- Over the past two years NEH has awarded 87 grants totaling $5.5 million in support of projects responsive to our Digital Humanities Initiative, which was launched in 2006 to encourage projects using or studying the impact of digital technology.
- In fiscal year 2008 NEH received its first-ever appropriation of dedicated funding for digital humanities projects. This $2 million appropriation is being supplemented by additional funds obtained through partnerships with agencies having similar interests, both here and abroad.

EXAMPLES OF DIGITAL HUMANITIES PROJECTS FUNDED BY THE NEH

OFFICE OF DIGITAL HUMANITIES

- *Virtual Burnham Initiative* – A grant to Lake Forest College to support the development of the Virtual Burnham Initiative (VBI), a multimedia project that would examine the history and legacy of Daniel H. Burnham's and Edward H. Bennett's Plan of Chicago (1909).
- *High Dynamic Range Imaging for Preserving Chromaticity Information of Architectural Heritage* – A grant to Texas A & M University to support the development of new methods, using High Dynamic Range imaging technology, of capturing and preserving accurate color information about historical buildings and other artworks.
- *Podcasting and the Maine Humanities Council: Integrating a New Tool for Public Humanities Education* – A grant to the Main Humanities Council to support podcasting public humanities projects throughout Maine, a state of concentrated population and long distances. This project would expand the geographic and temporal reach of Maine Humanities Council programs.
- *InPhO: the Indiana Philosophy Ontology Project* – A grant to Indiana University, Bloomington to support development of software to automate searching, navigating, and representing the relations among philosophical ideas, scholars, and works within the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy.

DIVISION OF PRESERVATION AND ACCESS

- *Text-Mining and Analysis Tools for Historical Research* – A grant to the Center for History and New Media at George Mason University to support research, development, and testing of tools designed to locate documents in large digital corpora, extract information, and analyze large-scale patterns across texts.
- *The World Wide Web of Humanities* – In cooperation with the Joint Information Systems Committee of the United Kingdom, grants were made to the Internet Archive in the U.S. and the Oxford Internet Institute in the U.K. to support the development of procedures and tools to improve the effectiveness of humanities research on the Web. This research and development effort promises to yield superior methods for indexing and analyzing the textual parts of larger digital collections, more focused browsing of the Web, and unified access to data resources.
- *Shakespeare Quartos Archive* -- In cooperation with the Joint Information Systems Committee of the United Kingdom, grants were made to the Folger Shakespeare Library in the U.S. and the University of Oxford in the U.K. to support the creation of a digital archive of pre-1641 quarto editions of Shakespeare's plays with a prototype for an interactive interface, toolset, and enhanced functionality.
- *Mon-Khmer Languages Project* – A grant to CRCL to support Preparation of a lexical database, an etymological dictionary, and a collaborative Web site for research on the Mon-Khmer languages, which include the national languages of Vietnam, Cambodia, communities in India, China, Burma, Malaysia, Laos, and Thailand.

DIVISION OF PUBLIC PROGRAMS

- *Twentieth-Century Presidents: A Multi-Platform Initiative from AMERICAN EXPERIENCE* – A grant to WGBH to support the distribution, onto a broad range of media platforms, of the television biographies of seven twentieth-century presidents-Franklin Roosevelt, Harry Truman, Lyndon Johnson, Richard Nixon, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, and George Herbert Walker Bush-who defined the modern American presidency.

- *Jewish Home-Grown History: Immigration, Identity, Intermarriage* – A grant to University of Southern California to support planning of interactive history software, a website, a multimedia traveling exhibition, and "database documentary" television programs about Jewish American immigration and cultural identity issues.

DIVISION OF RESEARCH PROGRAMS

- *Recent History of the Pashtun Tribes in Afghanistan and Pakistan: An Annotated Multimedia Narrative and Guide* – A grant to Colgate University to support a project that will result in a collection of annotated and searchable multimedia materials based on documentaries about the Pushtun tribes on both sides of the Pakistan-Afghanistan border.
- *Digital Tools and the Chymistry of Isaac Newton* – A grant to Indiana University, Bloomington to support a scholarly online edition as one part of an integrated project that includes new research on Newton's chymistry.
- *Works of Jonathan Edwards Online* – A grant to Yale University to support a comprehensive online digital archive of the writings of Jonathan Edwards.
- *Walt Whitman's Civil War Writings* – A grant to the University of Nebraska, Lincoln to support a comprehensive edition of Walt Whitman's Civil War writings.

OFFICE OF CHALLENGE GRANTS

- *The Center for the History and New Media* – A grant to George Mason University to support an endowment for partial salaries for a digital historian, a web designer, a computer programmer, two graduate research assistants, as well as software and equipment acquisitions at the Center for History and New Media.
- *Institute for Advanced Technology in the Humanities* – A grant to the University of Virginia to support an endowment for equipment, computer hardware and software acquisitions, staff salaries and training, as well as bridge funding for the Institute for Advanced Technology in the Humanities.

DIVISION OF EDUCATION PROGRAMS

- *Ethics and Political Philosophy: A Guide to the Classic Texts* – A grant to Northern Arizona University to support the development of a guide, to be hosted in a wiki-based digital format to encourage collaboration that uses the Socratic method to help undergraduates understand the main arguments of the classic texts in introductory ethics and political philosophy.
- *Visualizing Japan in Modern World History* – A grant to University of Colorado at Boulder to support a five-day workshop and follow-up activities for thirty teachers from a seven-state region to study the emergence of modern Japan from the late Tokugawa period through the Meiji period (1853 to 1911).
- *The World of Dante: Teaching the Divine Comedy Through Digital Resources* – A grant to the University of Virginia to support the expansion of the website, "The World of Dante", to include Purgatory and Paradise, and new visual, audio, and textual resources