

**Broadening the Digital Humanities:**

**The *Vectors*-IML Summer Institute on Multimodal Scholarship**

**Summer 2009 National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship**

**Call for Proposals**

**July 13-August 7, 2009**

**University of Southern California, Los Angeles**

The University of Southern California's Institute for Multimedia Literacy and the electronic journal *Vectors* are pleased to announce a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship Program for summer 2009 designed to foster innovative multimedia research. Titled "Broadening the Digital Humanities," the Institute will offer scholars the opportunity to explore the benefits of interactive media for scholarly analysis and authorship, illustrating the possibilities of multimodal media for humanities investigation. Fellows participating in the program will learn both by engaging with a variety of existing projects as well as through the production of their own project in collaboration with the *Vectors*-IML team. The projects fellows create will at once enrich their own understanding of the digital humanities and model the field for other scholars. Select projects will be published in *Vectors*.

First launched in 2005 at USC's IML, *Vectors* [www.Vectorsjournal.org](http://www.Vectorsjournal.org) is an international electronic journal dedicated to expanding the potentials of academic publication via emergent and transitional media. Moving well beyond the text-with-pictures format of much electronic scholarly publishing, *Vectors* brings together visionary scholars with cutting-edge designers and technologists to propose a thorough rethinking of the dynamic relationship of form and content in academic research.

**About the fellowships:**

Up to ten fellowships will be awarded to individuals or teams of collaborators in the early- to mid-stages of development of a scholarly multimedia project. While scholars in all humanities disciplines are eligible to apply, we are especially interested in collaborating with those who are working with video or with photography, sound, graphics, interactivity or other rich-media formats.

During the institute, fellows will explore central issues in the digital humanities and in multimedia authorship, including such topics as database structures and information architectures, visualization and interactive design, and process-based collaborative research. Guest lecturers during the summer will include Tim Lenoir, Johanna Drucker, Anne Burdick, Sharon Daniel, Doug Thomas, Phil Ethington, and Marsha Kinder, among others.

All fellowship recipients will participate in a four-week residency July 13-August 7, 2009 at USC's Institute for Multimedia Literacy, where they will have access to state of the art production facilities. Fellows will work in collaboration with world-class designers and *Vectors*' technical support and programming team during the residency and should complete a draft of their multimedia project during the course of the summer.

The residency will include colloquia and working sessions in which participants will develop project

foundations and collectively engage relevant issues in scholarly multimedia. Applicants need not be proficient with new media authoring, but must demonstrate familiarity with the potentials of digital media forms and clearly articulate their motivations for creating a digital project. Evidence of the capacity for successful collaboration and for scholarly innovation is required. Fellowship awards will include a stipend of \$3,500 for each participant or team of collaborators, as well as a travel and accommodation allowance of \$1,500 for non-local participants.

### **About the proposals:**

While we are interested in innovative modes of multimedia scholarship, we are not necessarily looking for projects that are about new media. Rather, we are interested in a broad array of projects across the humanities.

Projects may translate existing scholarly work or be entirely conceived for new media. We are particularly interested in projects that re-imagine the role of the user and seek to reach broader publics. Work that creatively explores innovations in interactivity, cross-disciplinary collaboration, or scholarly applications for newly developing scientific or engineering technologies is also encouraged.

Proposals should include the following:

- Title of project and a one-sentence description.
- A 5-6 page description of the project concept, goals, and outcomes. This description should address questions of audience and innovative uses of interactivity, address, and form. Please also clearly state the project's argument and its contribution to multimedia scholarship and, more generally, to contemporary scholarship in your field. This description must include an explanation of how a digital format is integral to the goals of the project.
- A description of the types of media you anticipate including in your project and a brief explanation of why they are significant to the project, including previously published work in any format related to the project.
- Brief biography of each applicant, including relevant qualifications and experience for this fellowship.
- Full CV for each applicant.
- Anticipated resources (design, technical, hardware, software, etc.)
- Projected timeline for project development.
- Sample media if available (URLs are preferred but media may be sent as e-mail attachments or via post if necessary).

**Important:** Projects that articulate *a clear understanding* of the value of multimedia to their execution will be regarded favorably. We ask that you take seriously the questions: Why does this project need to be realized in multimedia? What is to be gained by the use of a rich media format for the argument or experience I aim to present? What media assets will best help me realize my goal? What type of experience do I hope to create for the user? How do I envision the function of my project: archival, experiential, argumentative, explorational, etc?

Please explore the existing *Vectors'* site for rich examples of the types of projects we have supported

and published in the past.

Electronic applications are preferred. Please submit to [usc.vectors@gmail.com](mailto:usc.vectors@gmail.com)

Mailing address

IML-*Vectors* Summer NEH Fellowships

Institute for Multimedia Literacy

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Los Angeles, CA 90089-7727

Priority will be given to applications received by March 20, 2009. Fellowship recipients will be notified in early April.

Useful websites:

*Vectors*, <http://www.vectorsjournal.net>

IML, <http://iml.usc.edu/>

NEH Office of the Digital Humanities, <http://www.neh.gov/odh/>

Questions may be directed to Tara McPherson [tmcphers@usc.edu](mailto:tmcphers@usc.edu) or Holly Willis [hwillis@usc.edu](mailto:hwillis@usc.edu)