



Digital Transformations Amplifications Awards

Call for Proposals

Closing date for proposals: 4pm, Thursday 20th February 2014

Summary

The AHRC is pleased to invite proposals for projects to this Digital Transformations Amplification Awards Call.

This is an open call and applications may be submitted from any eligible Research Organisation, or AHRC recognised Independent Research Organisation. There is no limit to the number of proposals that can be submitted by each Research Organisation.

This call is run through the [Digital Transformations in the Arts and Humanities Theme](#).

Proposals must both complement and add value to the core aims of the theme.

Proposals which enhance the impact of previous research funded through the theme will be particularly welcome, but proposals relating to other research relevant to the theme and funded through other routes are also eligible.

Funding for projects up to a value of £80k is available on a fEC basis under this call, with AHRC meeting 80% of the fEC if successful. Awards should last for a maximum duration of **18 months**, and will be expected to start between **1 April 2014 and 30 September 2014**.

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Call for Proposals

The broad aim of the call is to take previous or existing research activities to another level, through new collaborations and partnerships, by crossing disciplinary boundaries or engaging new communities of researchers.

Projects should be innovative, ambitious, and have truly transformative potential for the Arts and Humanities, and for the continued development of the Digital Transformations theme. To achieve the desired originality and innovation from these awards we would particularly like to encourage projects of a speculative nature exploring emerging areas of technological transformation which include an element of risk within them. Proposals should be clear about the risks involved, and show that they have been considered carefully and explain how they will be managed within the project.

Scope of Call

This Amplification Awards call is open to all applicants with ideas of how to take their previous or current research projects in new directions. The previous research should have relevance to the Digital Transformations theme and speak to the core aims of the theme. This research does **not** need to have been funded by the AHRC. Applicants who have received previous funding from the theme are encouraged to apply, however all applications will be treated equally in the assessment process.

Digital Transformations aims to exploit the potential of digital technologies to transform research in the arts and humanities, to create exemplars of transformative approaches to digital arts and scholarship, and to ensure that arts and humanities researchers are at the forefront of tackling crucial issues such as intellectual property, cultural memory and identity, and communication and creativity in a digital age. The theme has a particular interest in exploring new and emergent areas of working and scholarly practice and in engaging with emerging research agendas, such as big data, the internet of things and making.

Further details about the Digital Transformations theme can be found in Appendix B of this document, and on the [Digital Transformations area of our website](#).

Projects that engage with other AHRC Strategic Themes (Science in Culture, Translating Cultures, Care for the Future) or AHRC Strategic Priorities (Design, Heritage, Modern Languages) are also encouraged.

Proposals submitted to this call should aim to amplify, expand or take forward in a new direction, previous or current research that has relevance to any aspect of the Digital Transformations theme. Applicants could achieve the aims of this call in a number of ways;

- a) collaborate with another research project or researcher(s) who has had a project that falls within the scope of the theme, to combine the findings and potentially discover new opportunities
- b) Build upon work from a previous project by taking that research in a new direction, including cross disciplinary working, to enhance the project and deliver new insights
- c) Introduce an International element to the research to add value to work that has already been done. This could involve the addition of an International Co-I or planned networking activities with International colleagues
- d) Engage with researchers from non-academic Organisations and include them in bids as either Project Partners or collaborators

The main focus of the project should be on new research, however activities such as workshops and events to engage new communities of researchers may be included.

Collaboration

Applications submitted under this call must be collaborative. The collaboration may involve a single institution or a combination of institutions, and may involve people from the same or different research areas, including collaboration between disciplines with the Arts and Humanities, or between an Arts and Humanities discipline and another subject area.

Collaboration across disciplines is particularly encouraged.

Applications may involve collaboration with colleagues within other sectors as Project Partners or collaborators.

International Collaboration

International collaboration is encouraged for the Amplification Awards. International co-investigators can, where justified, be included within proposals submitted to the AHRC. The cost of international co-investigators' time can be charged to the grant and funded at 100%, however please note that estates and indirect costs are not eligible to be included. An international co-investigator must be of post-doctoral standing and based at an institution of equivalent standing to a UK HEI.

The total direct costs associated with international co-investigators are limited to 30% of the total fEC cost of the proposal; there is no limit on the number of international co-investigators provided their cost falls within the financial parameter. Full guidance on

international co-investigator eligibility and costs can be found in the [Research Funding Guide](#).

Funding for Research across Research Council Boundaries

The nature of the Digital Transformations theme means that proposals under this call are likely to cut across the remits of the Research Councils. The AHRC is willing to adopt a flexible approach to funding contributions and activities to Amplification Awards from other disciplines outside the arts and humanities as an integral part of developing reciprocal relationships. However please note that the majority of the proposed research, and the research questions should fall within the Arts and Humanities remit. Applicants are encouraged to consider creative ways of engaging with research in other disciplines, including the potential to develop collaborations with researchers in disciplines supported by other funders. Some funding may also be requested for researchers from other disciplines to contribute their time to projects as co-investigators, team members, collaborators or consultants and to cover other costs such as travel and subsistence.

Application and Assessment Process

How to Apply

Applications should be submitted through the Je-S system at the latest by **4pm on Thursday 20th February 2014**, and will need to go through the appropriate institution submission process. You should submit your proposal using the Research Councils' Joint electronic Submission (Je-S) System (<https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk/>). To prepare a proposal form in Je-S log-in to your account and choose New Document, then select **AHRC** as the Council, **Standard Proposal** as the Document Type, **Development Grants** as the Scheme, **Digital Transformations Amplification Awards 20 February 2014** as the Call/Type/Mode and then 'Create Document'. Je-S will then create a proposal form, displaying the relevant section headings. Using the 'Help' link at the top of each section will provide guidance relevant to that section of the form. Please take care when choosing the Call/Type/Mode as other similar options may be presented in the drop-down list.

Note that clicking 'submit document' on your proposal form in Je-S initially submits the proposal to your host organisation's administration, not to AHRC. ***Please do not leave submission to the last minute and remember to allow sufficient time for your organisation's submission process between submitting your proposal to them***

and the Call closing date. Once the call closes for submission at 4.00pm on Thursday 20th February 2014 it will not be re-opened and institutions will not be able to submit the application.

Awards are available for a period of up to 18 months. Please note that all awards **must start between 1 April 2014 and 30 September 2014** and this should be confirmed through the JeS portal no later than one month after the start date of the project. If the start of the project has not been confirmed by this date the AHRC will deem the offer of an award to have been declined.

Guidance on completing the application form and also the attachments that are required can be found in **Appendix A**.

Assessment Criteria

In addition to the AHRC's standard assessment criteria (found in the AHRC Funding Guide <http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/documents/guides/research-funding-guide/>) the following criteria will be used to assess the proposals:

- **fit to the call specification**, including details of the proposed collaboration, and the added value of the planned amplification activities.
- **Contribution to the Digital Transformations Theme**, for example the potential to make a significant broader contribution to the Digital Transformations Theme, by demonstrating the ability of big data to support the investigation of new research questions and the development of new methodologies.

All proposals submitted to this call will be assessed by a panel of experts, which will then make recommendations of funding to the AHRC.

Timetable of activity

Expected timetable of activity	Date
Deadline for submission of proposals	4pm, 20th February 2014
Assessment Panel meeting	March 2014
Decisions	Late March/Early April 2014
Successful projects start	Between 1 April 2014 and 30 September 2014

Contacts

If you have any queries regarding this call please contact either:

The Digital Transformations mailbox, AHRCdigitrans@ahrc.ac.uk

Wendy Matcham, Portfolio Manager wendy.matcham@ahrc.ac.uk

John Watts, Programmes Co-ordinator, j.watts@ahrc.ac.uk

Or

Dr Pamela Mason, Strategy and Development Manager, p.mason@ahrc.ac.uk

Appendix A – Guidance on Completion of the Je-S Application Form

Please ensure that the correct form is used – further details can be found in this document under 'How to apply'.

Complete details of the applicant, Research Organisation, Project Title, Start date and duration of the project on the appropriate form.

Costs

All costs must be itemised separately **within the budget breakdown section of the application** form. You can include costs of the salary of the Principal Investigator and where appropriate the Co-Investigator(s), for the time spent overseeing and providing intellectual input to the activities. Where the PI or Co-I's intend to do this within time funded under another project funded by the Research Councils you should not include their time in this application to avoid duplication of funding.

Other costs that can be included are; the cost of setting up and coordinating the activities (for example, the salary costs of a project coordinator or administrative support), research assistance, estates and indirect costs, costs involved in organising events and travel and subsistence costs for participants.

All costs should fall under one of the following headings:

Directly Incurred

These are costs that are explicitly identifiable as arising from the conduct of a project, are charged as the cash value actually spent and are supported by an audit record. They include:

- **Staff** – Payroll costs requested for staff, full or part-time, who will work on the project and whose time can be supported by a full audit trail during the life of the project.
- **Travel and Subsistence** – Funds for travel and subsistence for use by staff who work on the project where these are required by the nature of the work. Funds for travel and subsistence for participants and collaborators who participate in and contribute to the project.
- **Equipment** – The cost of individual items of equipment dedicated to the project and costing more than £3,000 (including VAT).
- **Other costs** – Costs of other items dedicated to the project, including consumables, books, survey fees, purchase/hire of vehicles, publication costs or recruitment and advertising costs for staff directly employed on the project. Items of equipment costing less than £3,000 should also be included under this heading.

Directly Allocated

These are the costs of resources used by a project that are shared by other activities. They are charged to projects on the basis of estimates rather than actual costs and do not represent actual costs on a project by project basis. They include:

- **Investigators** – Proposals will need to show the costs of the Principal Investigator and any Co-Investigators if their time charged to the project is based on estimates rather than actual costs. (Salary costs of participants and non-academic partners cannot be included)
- **Estates** – These costs may include building and premises costs, basic services and utilities, and any clerical staff and equipment maintenance or operational costs not already included under other cost headings.
- **Other Directly Allocated** – These costs may include, for example, the costs of other research staff, technical, administrative and other support staff, or access to institutional research facilities such as equipment and IT systems.

Indirect Costs

These include non-specific costs charged across all projects based on estimates that are not otherwise included as Directly Allocated costs. They include the costs of the Research Organisation's administration, such as personnel, finance, library and some departmental services.

Indexation

All costings should be at current prices, inclusive of VAT and other taxes where applicable, with no allowance for inflation. Any allowance for inflation that has been included in the full economic costing of the proposal by the Research Organisation must be excluded. The AHRC will include an allowance for inflation if a grant is awarded.

Compulsory attachments

The following attachments must be included, please note that where advice differs for each funding stream this is noted in the heading.

Case for Support guidance

You should include a 'Case for Support' document, of no more than 7 sides of A4 outlining the rationale for the proposed activity, how it will add value to current activities, describing the proposed activities to be undertaken and outline the expected outputs and dissemination plans as appropriate. You should structure your case for support using the following headings:

i) Vision for the Proposed Project to include:

Research questions

You should give a brief, clear description of the research questions, challenges, issues or problems that it is envisaged that the final proposal would address. Please outline what aspects of this the team will be exploring or developing further in the course of the award

Rationale and research context

You should briefly describe the rationale, approach and research context of the activities for the project, including appropriate references where necessary. Why is it important that these questions or issues are explored? What other research is being, or has been, conducted in this area? How has the framing of the research been enriched by drawing on cross-disciplinary insights, including from the Arts and Humanities?

Aims and objectives

You should briefly describe the research methods or approaches it is envisaged that the full project could use to investigate the questions, including aims and objectives that have been set and why these approaches have been selected for further development. How might the research make a significant and innovative contribution to advancing the research field?

Contribution to the Digital Transformations in the Arts and Humanities Theme

How might the proposed project contribute to the aims of the Digital Transformations in the Arts and Humanities Theme?

ii) Proposed amplification activities to include:

Description of amplification activities and timetable of these activities

Please describe the planned activities for developing previous research ideas further, outlining the proposed approach or methods for development work as appropriate. Explain why the proposed activities (e.g. additional scoping, review, networking and other consultative and partnership building activities) have been selected as the most appropriate and important ways to develop the research ideas identified. You should also give an estimated timetable of activities, including an outline schedule for any events such as workshops, symposia, conferences, meetings etc.

Collaboration

Please outline who will be involved in the activities, including research collaborators (e.g. other Research Council-funded activities, researchers funded by other funders, overseas researchers etc.), proposed knowledge exchange / stakeholder partners and

engagement with communities or community groups. Please describe the role / input of collaborators in the activities.

Management and co-ordination

How will the development activities be managed and delivered? What will be the roles of the Principal Investigator, the Co-Investigator, and other members of the team such as coordinators/administrators? You should briefly explain the work programme and management of the development activities, and a brief rationale for the level of resources required.

Technical Summary

All proposals must complete this section.

If digital outputs or digital technologies are essential to the planned research outcomes of your proposal, then you should:-

a) Use this section to provide a brief description of the projects proposed digital outputs and/or digital technologies.

AND

b) Complete a Technical Plan and add this as an attachment to your proposal

Outcomes and dissemination

To which audiences will the activities and their outcomes be of interest? How will any outputs be discussed with, and/or communicated and disseminated to, those audiences?

Justification of Resources

All costs associated with the research project must be explained and justified in the Justification for Resources attachment, with the following exceptions:

- Estates costs
- Indirect costs
- Investigator salary costs
- Some other Directly Allocated – general technical services,
- Shared lab equipment

Pathways to Impact

The Pathways to Impact attachment (of up to 2 sides of A4) asks you to expand on the Impact Summary by answering the question what will be done to ensure that potential beneficiaries have the opportunity to engage with the research?

The Pathways to Impact attachment is your opportunity to describe in more detail how the potential impacts of the research beyond academia, as outlined in the Impact

Summary, will be realised. Taking into account what is reasonable and appropriate given the nature of the research you propose to conduct, you are asked to describe how the proposed research will be managed to engage any users and beneficiaries that have been identified, or to identify potential users and beneficiaries as the research progresses, and to increase the likelihood of achieving impacts. In presenting your plans, you should tailor and target your impact activities to ensure that they are relevant to the specific user and beneficiary groups likely to be interested in your research and appropriate for supporting the potential research impacts outlined. Innovative and creative approaches are strongly encouraged.

When completing the attachment, you should consider (and address if appropriate) methods for communications and engagement, collaboration and exploitation. You should also detail who will be undertaking any impact activities and include any resource implications in the financial summary and in the separate Justification of Resources attachment.

Letter of Support

A letter of support should be included for all project partners involved in the project. The letter should include:

- Confirmation of the partner's support of the project
- Confirmation and details of the value of the Partner's contribution to the project, whether in-kind or monetary

CV

A summary CV should be included for the Principal Investigator, each Co-investigator and any named Research Assistants. Each CV should be no more than one side of A4.

Publication lists

A publication list should be included for the Principal Investigator, each Co-investigator and any named Research Assistants. Each publication list should be no longer than one side of A4.

Technical Plan

A Technical Plan should be provided for all applications where digital outputs or digital technologies are an essential part to the planned research outcomes. A digital output or digital technology is defined as an activity which involves the creation, gathering, collecting and/or processing of digital information. For present purposes digital technologies do not include conventional software such as word processing packages and ICT activities such as email.

The Technical Plan must use the following headings:

Section 1: Summary of Digital Outputs and Digital Technologies

Section 2: Technical Methodology

2a: Standards and Formats

2b: Hardware and Software

2c: Data Acquisition, Processing, Analysis and Use

Section 3: Technical Support and Relevant Experience

Section 4: Preservation, Sustainability and Use

4a: Preserving Your Data

4b: Ensuring Continued Access and Use of Your Digital

Outputs

Further details regarding completion of the technical plan can be found on pages 67 – 72 of our [Research Funding Guide](#)

Gantt Chart

Please provide a Gantt chart outlining an indicative plan/ schedule of activities for the project (please add this as an 'additional attachment').

Appendix B – Digital Transformations in the Arts and Humanities

The Digital Transformations Theme

Digital Transformations aims to exploit the potential of digital technologies to transform research in the arts and humanities, to create exemplars of transformative approaches to digital arts and scholarship, and to ensure that arts and humanities researchers are at the forefront of tackling crucial issues such as intellectual property, cultural memory and identity, and communication and creativity in a digital age.

There is huge potential to develop new ways of working to enhance access and creativity, but the digital age also raises complex questions of responsibility, identity, privacy, and data security that need to be addressed. Engineers, computer scientists, and developers are providing the infrastructure for these changes but innovation within the arts and humanities will be essential to exploiting their potential to transform methods of organising, interpreting, and using knowledge.

Arts and humanities research perspectives on issues such as forms of knowledge and perception, modes of reproduction and dissemination, and the ways in which society as a whole communicates and uses knowledge will be crucial to understanding the potential, scope, limits, and impacts of digital technologies. Probing these research issues will engage a broad range of partners in creative and cultural industries e.g. theatre companies, national institutions, galleries, publishing, law, and media companies.

The results of research into digital transformations will be of significant benefit to individuals, policy makers, business, cultural organisations, and researchers.

The Digital Transformations Theme is not simply about studying technology and its use in the Arts and Humanities; it seeks to encourage innovation in developing and using this technology as well. Digital Transformations can cover many topics, such as the potential and impact of digital change on:

- how we communicate and use knowledge in the context of the 'infinite archive', including changes in forms of knowledge and how we conduct research, modes of reproduction and dissemination
- the human implications of the expanded archive, including memory, perception,

truth, ethics, and the use of language

- changes in publishing, notions of authorship, intellectual property, the rights and responsibilities of the individual and the state
- the democratisation of scholarship and the globalisation of the knowledge economy
- transformations of disciplines and inter-disciplinarity
- international or 'at distance' collaborative working
- questions of access and availability, and new forms of expression, in the creative and performing arts

Further background information on the theme can be found on the [Digital Transformations pages of the AHRC website](#).

Digital Transformations Amplification Awards

The Digital Transformations Amplification Awards are expected to support proposals that are outstandingly novel in terms of ambition and scope and which are truly transformative for the Arts and Humanities.

The very nature of Digital Transformations indicates a level of risk-taking in order to produce something truly novel and transformational. As such, bold proposals with great scale and ambition are welcome, provided that it is clear that the risks have been considered carefully and will be managed within the project.