

UK-US Collaboration for Digital Scholarship in Cultural Institutions Partnership Development Grants

Contents

I.	Introduction	2
II.	Context.....	2
A.	Framing the Challenge	2
B.	UK-US: the value of enhanced collaboration.....	3
C.	Fund for International Collaboration	3
D.	Statement of Intent and Workshop.....	4
III.	Scope.....	5
A.	Aims and Objectives.....	5
B.	Themes and Disciplines.....	5
IV.	Contribution of US Partners.....	7
V.	Management and Structure.....	7
VI.	Funding and Eligible Costs	8
A.	Available Funding.....	8
B.	Eligible Costs	9
VII.	Application Process and Format	9
VIII.	Assessment Process and Criteria	13
IX.	Scheme Requirements and Post Award Reporting.....	15

I. Introduction

The AHRC is pleased to announce a call for Partnership Development Grants as the next phase of its 'UK-US Collaboration for Digital Scholarship in Cultural Institutions' programme funded through the [UKRI Fund for International Collaboration](#).

The overarching aim of the programme is to deliver a transformational impact on digital scholarship in museums and cognate cultural institutions such as galleries, libraries and archives in the UK and US. It seeks to achieve this by facilitating new transatlantic research partnerships that reimagine the future of the world's leading cultural institutions by: transforming the ways in which culture and heritage can be experienced by global audiences; developing new directions for organisational leadership and new forms of curatorial practice; opening new research frontiers and questions; and advancing collections-based research methods for the 21st century.

This call for **Partnership Development Grants** is the second stage in a suite of funding activity that will be delivered through the programme over five years from 2018-23. It aims to support a broad range of research and partnership development activities between teams in the UK and US that provide a foundation for larger, longer-term UK-US research collaboration in digital scholarship in cultural institutions, and which might be submitted to potential future funding calls delivered by the partners.

The call builds on the 'UK-US Collaboration for Digital Scholarship in Cultural Institutions' workshop that took place in Washington DC from 18-19 September 2019 and which was co-sponsored by AHRC, EPSRC and four US partners: the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Smithsonian Institution and the Library of Congress.

Funding of £50-100,000 is available per project on a full economic cost (fEC) basis with AHRC meeting 80% of the fEC. Due to the fact that US partners are not able to allocate funding to this particular call, applicants will be required to demonstrate some level of matched resource, either cash or in-kind, to support the US component of projects. Projects should be for a duration of 6-12 months and will be required to start by 14 February 2020.

The closing date for this call is 10th December 2019 at 4pm.

II. Context

A. Framing the Challenge

Museums and cognate institutions such as galleries, libraries and archives are vital to the academic, societal and economic wellbeing of the UK and US. As a result of the technological shift driven by digitisation, mobile access, social media, machine learning and immersive technologies however, they face growing pressure from evolving audience and user expectations.

Given the variability in the form, standard and contexts of the material they hold, as well as the multiplying channels of communication they have with their diverse publics, the digital challenge facing museums and related institutions is particularly complex. This is substantiated by a number of recent reports including the [AHRC/NESTA/ACE Digital Culture Survey](#) and [2017 DCMS Mendoza](#)

[Review](#) in the UK, which concludes that ‘museums are lagging behind other institutions in their use of digital technology’. Similarly, the 2017 [Axiell / MCN report on ‘Digitising Collections’](#), which is focused principally on US institutions, identifies that ‘whilst digitisation is a priority for the vast majority of collections institutions, we see that most are more likely to meet their goals in decades rather than years’.

B. UK-US: the value of enhanced collaboration

The UK and US contain some of the world’s most prestigious cultural institutions. They are also world-leading in digital scholarship with recognised centres of excellence and a long-standing history of collaboration. Cultural institutions in both countries have invested heavily in addressing the opportunities and challenges of digitization and digital research (see, for example, the Smithsonian’s aim to reach 1 billion people a year with its [digital-first strategy](#), or the commitment of the UK’s Natural History Museum to digitizing all 80 million of its specimens through its [Digital Collections programme](#)).

Many of the digital challenges facing cultural institutions in the UK and US are shared. This includes constrained budgets and limited access to funding; privacy concerns and the ethics of data; the risk of technology-driven (rather than mission-driven) visitor experiences; the increasing focus on museums as centres of civic responsibility; audience expectations of media and connectivity in public space; the changing nature of museum work (including new staffing models); and a series of larger societal shifts (changing demographics, decolonisation, environmentalism, social justice etc.) for 21st century museums.

This FIC programme responds to such challenges by aiming to bring together the outstanding quality of the combined cultural collections, professional practices and academic standards of the UK and US to deliver the next generation of digital scholarship. It builds upon a successful history of collaboration between the partners including related programmes such as [‘Digging into Data’](#), which brought data science approaches to bear on large digital libraries of cultural heritage materials. It also reflects the UK-US Science and Technology agreement signed in September 2017 - at which a new AHRC-Smithsonian collaboration in digital scholarship was one of the key announcements - and builds on emerging transatlantic collaborations such as the new partnership between the [V&A and Smithsonian](#) working towards new exhibitions and public engagement at the Olympic site in East London.

C. Fund for International Collaboration

This context, coupled with a long-standing relationship with US partners, provided the foundation for AHRC’s successful bid to the UKRI Fund for International Collaboration (FIC) through which funding of £7.5m has been secured to support collaborative activity from 2018-23. The FIC is a new UKRI fund which aims to enhance the UK’s excellence in research and innovation through global engagement, forging new bilateral and multilateral research and innovation programmes with global partners.

This call for Partnership Development Grants builds on the first phase of funding allocated through the programme, which supported [11 Research Networks](#) bringing together Universities and cultural institutions from both countries.

It is anticipated that over its five-year duration, the programme will support a broad range of collaborative research activity that:

- builds capability and capacity through the innovative application of digital methods and research in cultural institutions;
- facilitates new cross-disciplinary projects;
- pioneers new approaches to audience engagement and experience; and
- supports dialogue and outreach about the value and impact of digitisation and digital collections.

D. Statement of Intent and Workshop

From 18-19 September 2019, a workshop co-sponsored by the AHRC, the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council of the UK (EPSRC), the National Endowment for the Humanities of the US (NEH), the National Science Foundation of the US (NSF), the Smithsonian Institution and the Library of Congress on 'UK-US Collaboration for Digital Scholarship in Cultural Institutions' took place in Washington DC. Prior to the workshop, the six partners signed a Statement of Intent which reflected a mutual ambition to enhance transatlantic collaboration in the field of digital scholarship for cultural institutions.

The workshop brought together approximately 80 academic and cultural institution experts from the UK and US in order to:

- Convene leading experts from academia, museums and other cultural institutions in the UK and US in order to foster a world-leading, transatlantic community in the field;
- Explore the key contemporary challenges and opportunities facing museums and cultural institutions and the role of digital scholarship in addressing them;
- Identify the priority thematic areas to be considered by the partners and that might be embedded within future collaborative activity / funding calls;
- Identify the most appropriate mechanisms for building new UK-US collaborations in the field and the support required from the partners to realise the opportunities for heightened collaboration.

Discussions focused on six thematic areas: machine learning and AI; crowdsourcing and models of co-creation; developing enhanced information on museum / cultural institution visitors; the automatic creation and interrogation of all document types and unlocking of new data; the use of digital tools and methods in addressing contemporary challenges; and leadership and skills development in digital scholarship.

The workshop was a critical early-phase activity in building partnerships around the vision of the programme and shaping the thematic priorities that will be taken forward through it, including the focus of this call. A report of the workshop, including recommendations for future activity, can be found [here](#). It is strongly advised that applicants refer to this report when completing their proposal.

Please note that attendance at the workshop and / or funding through the previous networking call is *not* a condition of application to this call.

III. Scope

A. Aims and Objectives

This call for Partnership Development Grants aims to support a broad range of innovative research development activities between teams in the UK and US that have the potential to deliver a transformational impact on digital methods and research in cultural institutions in both countries. Projects will be expected to consolidate partnerships between Research Organisations and cultural institutions in both countries in response to key thematic areas and establish a platform for future, more extensive and longer-term collaboration.

Specially, the call aims to support a diverse range of projects that:

- Build on the momentum of the workshop and Research Networks to consolidate partnerships and provide a basis for long-term, world-leading collaboration in the field;
- Apply an appropriate balance of innovative research development activities, appropriately tailored to the research questions being addressed, including pilot / developmental / exploratory research; new cross-disciplinary engagements; scoping and proof of concept activity; feasibility studies; workshops, conferences and networking; capacity building; and outreach, engagement and knowledge exchange activity;
- Interrogate, refine and advance the questions, challenges and opportunities presented by one or more of the thematic areas (section III B, below);
- Are specifically intended to lay the groundwork for larger, longer-term UK-US collaboration in the field, which might include the submission of proposals to potential future funding calls supported by the partners;
- Be genuinely collaborative and involve an appropriate balance of Research Organisations and cultural institutions in both countries;
- Take account of the recommendations outlined in the workshop report;
- Promote the sharing of best practice and knowledge exchange between institutions in the UK and US and clearly demonstrate the specific added value of enhanced transatlantic collaboration in the field.

B. Themes and Disciplines

Applicants should consider the inherently multi-disciplinary nature of digital scholarship. Proposals that take interdisciplinary approaches, both within the arts and humanities and beyond, to include the integration of the sciences, are strongly encouraged. Proposals should, however, be principally grounded within [AHRC's remit](#); **those that are not will be deemed ineligible**:

Proposals should be framed around research development activity in one or more of the following thematic areas:

- **Machine learning and AI:** the varied potential of artificial intelligence technologies (and their long history of development within these sectors) for changing the way digital collections are organised and approached; the need for useable tools and innovative problem solving; how visitor-facing experiences are conceptualised and delivered; how business processes are designed and harnessed within the organisation; the

computational challenges as well as the issues of data privacy, ethics, research integrity, reproducibility and bias associated with these innovations; and the value of sharing content, methods, expertise, and practice, and building on existing investments and communities.

- **Digitally enabled participation:** the role played by digital tools as well as physical-online projects, to create new, accessible, equitable approaches to community engagement; enhancing public access across multiple channels, and engaging marginalised and disenfranchised communities; developing new models of ownership and authorship; enabling audience agency; ensuring transparency and safety; collecting, digesting and sharing best practice; challenging organisational practice; maximising the value of existing platforms; and innovating in response to changes in technology and audience.
- **Developing enhanced information on museum and cultural institution visitors:** how new ecologies of connected datasets (inside and outside of the organisation) might evidence the experience and needs of visitors; how new and emerging technologies open up richer ways of monitoring and understanding the visitor journey; how next generation analytics might reach to reflect the full extent of online usage and activity; consideration of what technologies are being used by cultural organisations to gather information about visitors, and how data is informing practice; what the implications of these new techniques and these new forms of data might be on the workforce, on training, and on knowledge sharing; and what processes might be required to sustain all of these new approaches, particularly the forms of consent responsibility required and the ethics of data collection in the museum – including its intent and the question of who it is serving.
- **The automatic creation and interrogation of all document types and unlocking of new data:** including the role of optical character recognition, text extraction and parsing; linking data from digitised records to create richer research data and allow research with collections-as-data at scale through methods such as geo-location and network analysis; the interrogation of all media types including complex fields such as sound; questioning where tools ‘live’ and when they should ‘retire’; whether the tools and methods used should be ‘off the shelf’ or specific and bespoke, and how users might have access to (and the potential to input on) the development of these tools; the value of transparency in methodology (in algorithms/data interrogation methods) to ensure higher confidence in data outputs; the role of guidelines and best practices for increasing interoperability between data creation and interrogation, and understanding of what the baseline is to produce trusted data reliably; and the potential for a community around these challenges, supporting joined up work that builds upon and sustains components of effective methods.

All proposals should also demonstrate how they connect with the two cross-cutting themes:

- **Contemporary challenges addressed by digital tools and methods:** addressing the digital affordances of the social role of cultural organisations in relation to tools, methods and processes that open the use and re-use of collections; collaborating to create, enact or implement ethical frameworks to address inequalities revealed by digital collections or

people's digital engagement with cultural organisations; consideration of how to sustain relationships and develop co-research and co-production with marginalised groups, recognising that collections remain steeped in colonial gathering; considering mechanisms for delivering on commitments to equality and diversity, responsive tools/methods to understand and adapt to demographic and environmental conditions, co-operative models for working with communities, and methods to combat cultural object trafficking.

- **Leadership and skills development in digital scholarship:** including how to build digital capability in museums and cultural organisations; how to create the conditions in an organisation to develop digital confidence and capacity; how to support leaders of digital transformation in their organisations; how to harness digital knowledge capital within an organisation, within professional networks and within the sector as whole; how to approach the challenge of recruitment and retention of museum technologists; how to create career pathways for technologists working in museums; and how to address a lack of consistency in the use of new technologies and the skills required to work with them.

These themes have been developed and refined on the basis of discussions and outputs from the September workshop. Applications that extend across multiple themes are permissible but applicants are required to identify the **one thematic area around which their proposal is principally framed**.

IV. Contribution of US Partners

Due to the fact that the US partners named above are unable to allocate funding to this particular call, applicants are required to demonstrate a level of matched resource commitment from US partners involved in their projects. There is flexibility in how this contribution can be captured; for example it could involve direct funding for the US-based elements of the project and / or in-kind contributions such as Investigator time, staff costs or use of facilities. Further information about Project Partner contributions is provided in AHRC's [Research Funding Guide](#), (section 2, p. 38).

It is expected that the US contribution will constitute a meaningful commitment to the project that is broadly commensurate with a balance of activity and distribution of responsibilities between the respective UK and US partners. Please note that any cash or in-kind contributions from US partners do not count against the (fEC) £100,000 maximum funding limit of this call.

Applicants will be required to submit Letters of Support detailing the contributions to be made by US partners named on the application.

V. Management and Structure

All projects must be collaborative between the UK and US and bring together an appropriate balance of academic and cultural institution expertise from both countries. As a minimum, this should include **at least one eligible Research Organisation and one cultural institution in each**

country. For the purpose of this call, the term ‘cultural institution’ is conceived broadly and defined as any organisation that collects, organises, preserves, and makes accessible cultural heritage materials to both the academic research community as well as the public (therefore including museums, libraries, galleries, archives, historical societies and zoos).

Funding will be allocated to a Research Organisation (i.e. HEI or IRO) in the UK that is eligible to receive AHRC funding and should be led by a suitably qualified PI who will have overall responsibility for the project. Standard eligibility criteria (see section 3 of AHRC’s [Research Funding Guide](#)) will apply to this call for both investigators and research organisations.

US collaborators can be named as Co-Investigators. Given the matched funding requirements however, their time should not be charged to the grant unless an exceptional case can be made. Co-Investigators from other countries can be included in accordance with AHRC’s International Co-Investigator policy where it can be demonstrated that they will add value to the project. Please refer to the Research Funding Guide for further information on AHRC’s International Co-I policy.

Museums and cultural institutions should be listed as named applicants, project partners, or collaborating organisations, as appropriate to the nature of the involvement (see section 2 of the Research Funding Guide for more information).

VI. Funding and Eligible Costs

A. Available Funding

Funding of £50-100,000 – excluding matched contributions from US partners - is available per project on a full economic cost (fEC) basis with AHRC meeting 80% of the fEC.

As outlined above, applicants are required to demonstrate some level of matched resource, either cash or in-kind, to support the US component of projects. This contribution should be clearly articulated within the proposal and accompanying Letters of Support. Due to the tight timeframe associated with this call, and the added complexity of securing matched resource from US partners, AHRC recognise that it might be difficult to secure all Letters of Support from US partners prior to the deadline. Where this is the case, applicants should contact the AHRC for advice and be able to clearly demonstrate the form and scale of the partner’s contribution. For any projects that are successful at the assessment stage but missing Letters of Support, funding will be conditional upon the provision of these documents prior to the project’s commencement.

Projects should be for a duration of 6-12 months and will be required to start by 14 February 2020¹.

AHRC expects to make up to 10 awards through this call.

¹ It is a requirement of this call that all funded research networks must start on 14 February 2020; no flexibility can be offered on this requirement. However, AHRC will give sympathetic consideration to extension requests where the project faces delays at the start due to the quick turnaround between the funding decision being communicated to successful applicants and the projects starting.

B. Eligible Costs

As outlined above, funding allocated through this call will support a broad range of research development activities that build transatlantic partnerships and establish a platform for future, larger-scale collaboration. These activities should be tailored to the overall aims of the partnership and nature of the research questions being addressed. Eligible costs include, but are not limited to:

- Investigator costs: including UK-based PI and Co-I roles;
- Research costs: e.g. those associated with pilot / developmental / exploratory research, scoping and proof of concept activity, feasibility studies etc.;
- Activity supporting the development of the partnership, including travel and subsistence, workshop and conference costs etc.;
- Outreach costs, such as knowledge exchange and public engagement activity;
- Capacity building, including research training and development activities such as the professional development of cultural institution staff.

VII. Application Process and Format

Applications should be submitted through the Je-S system by **4pm** at the latest on **10th December 2019**, 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 'Documents' from the menu;
- then select 'New Document';
- 'AHRC' as the Council;
- 'Standard Proposal' as the Document Type;
- 'Development Grants' as the Scheme;
- 'AHRC UK-US Partnership Development Grants 10 December 2019' as the Call/Type/Mode; and
- '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.

Note that selecting 'Submit document' on your proposal form in Je-S initially submits the proposal to your host organisation's administration, not to AHRC.

Please remember to allow sufficient time for your organisation's submission process between submitting your proposal to them and the Call closing date.

Applications should address the aims of the Call as outlined above.

The following are a list of attachments that are permitted for this Call. Please see below for further guidance on submitting these attachments:

Attachment	Requirement and page limits (sides of A4)
Case for Support	Compulsory (maximum 6 sides of A4)
Curriculum Vitae	Compulsory for the PIs, each Co-I and any named researchers. (no more than 2 sides A4 each)
Publication Lists	Compulsory (these should cover major publications/outputs in the last five years and should be no more than one side of A4)
Justification of Resources	Compulsory (2 sides of A4)
Pathways to Impact	Compulsory (2 sides of A4)
Project Partner Letter of Support	Compulsory (2 sides of A4 per partner)
International Co-I Head of Dept Statement	Compulsory if there is an international Co-Investigator(s). Maximum of two sides of A4 each.
Data Management Plan	Compulsory (2 sides of A4)

Case for Support attachment (6 sides of A4)

This is the body of your research proposal. You must outline clearly the rationale for the activities, approach and context in which they will operate by answering the following questions:

- What is the central theme of the proposed activity?
- Why is it important that this theme be explored?
- How will the proposed activities generate genuine collaboration between the UK and US with the potential to deliver international best practice in research and innovation?

Please use the following headings to structure your Case for Support:

Research questions or problems

You should describe clearly the research questions, issues or problems that you intend to address. What are the issues that you will be exploring in the course of your activity?

Rationale and research context

You should describe clearly the rationale, approach and research context of the activities. Why are the proposed activities necessary to address this theme at this time and how do they respond to the overarching aims of this call? To what extent do the proposed activities generate fruitful, innovative and novel interaction? How will the activity provide a platform for longer-term UK-US

collaboration in the field? You will need to provide a clear explanation of how your activities cross boundaries and how this adds value to the proposed activities. What is the research context in which the activities will operate and how will it advance knowledge and understanding in the fields concerned? To which audiences will the activities and its outcomes be of interest and value?

Research methods

What research methods will you be using to address the questions or issues that you have set, or solve the problems you have identified, or to explore the matters you intend to investigate? Why have you chosen these methods? Why are they the best way to answer the research questions or problems you have identified? What will your role be? If there are other people involved, what will their roles be and why are they the appropriate people to be involved?

Aims and objectives

You should describe the aims and objectives of the activities. What specific targets or outcomes will you have achieved by the end of the project and how do these support the overarching vision of the programme?

Timetable of activities

You should give a clear timetable of activities, including events such as workshops, symposia, conferences.

Key partners or participants

You should identify the specific partner organisations and / or participants, both in the UK and US, who will be central to the success of the project, along with their expertise and availability. You should also demonstrate how the project will leverage additional resource – either cash or in-kind – from UK partners.

Contribution of US partners

You should detail and quantify the contribution of US partners, articulating how this constitutes an appropriate contribution based on a balanced distribution of activities and responsibilities.

Management and co-ordination

How will the activities be managed? How will the complexities of working between the UK and US be accounted for? How will communications be managed and input between partners coordinated? What will be the roles of the Principal Investigator, the Co-Investigator(s), and other participants?

Dissemination

Please provide examples of the kinds of outputs you propose to produce during the award and their proposed focus. Please explain further how the research and activities will benefit other researchers, cultural institutions and other relevant organisations and provide a platform for future research and development activities in the field between the UK and US.

Justification of Resources attachment (2 sides of A4)

This statement should be used to justify the resources required to undertake the project.

You should:

- Explain why the indicated resources are needed, taking account of the nature and complexity of the research proposed. Note that it is not sufficient merely to list what is required.
- Have regard for the breakdown of resources into the summary fund headings Directly Incurred, Directly Allocated and (where appropriate) Exceptions.
- Have regard for the breakdown of resources in the summary fund headings.
- In some cases, such as investigator time, use of internal facilities and shared staff costs, the basis of the costing need not be justified, but the need for the resources does need justification.
- Try to be explicit about the need for the level of investigator time sought.
- Do not justify estates and indirect costs.

Curriculum Vitae (max. 2 sides of A4 each)

A summary curriculum vitae should be attached as separate documents for each Principal Investigator and Co-Investigator or named postdoctoral researchers. CVs should include basic information about education, employment history, and academic responsibilities.

Publication List (max. 1 side of A4 each)

Summary lists of publications/research outputs should be attached as separate documents for each Principal Investigator and Co-Investigator. These should cover major publications/outputs in the last five years. Brief articles, conference papers, etc. need not be included. You should asterisk those of particular relevance to your current research proposal.

Pathways to Impact (max. 2 sides of A4)

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 section of the Je-S form, will be realised. When completing the attachment, you should consider (and address if appropriate) methods for communications and engagement, collaboration and exploitation.

Project Partner Letters of Support (max. 2 sides of A4)

You should include letters of support from all organisations entered on the Je-S form as 'Project Partners'. A Project Partner is an organisation which contributes in cash or in kind to the project but which is not requesting any money.

International Co-Investigator Head of Department Statement (max. 2 sides of A4)

If your proposal includes an international co-investigator(s), their institution must submit a Head of Department Statement. This statement must include the following information:

- What the international co-investigator is bringing to the project and why they are best placed to conduct the research
- How they will deliver the project's objectives
- How their institution will support them during the lifetime of the project

- Assurances that their contract will be in place for the duration of the project

Data Management Plan (max 2 sides of A4)

The Data Management Plan should outline the project’s approach to managing data. Applicants should address the below points:

- Briefly introduce the types of data the research will create. Why did you decide to use these data types?
- How will different approaches to IP, copyright etc. in the UK and US be accounted for?
- Give details on the proposed methodologies that will be used to create the data. Advise how the project team selected will be suitable for the data/digital aspects of the work, including details of how the institution’s data support teams may need to support the project
- How will the data be stored in the short term?
- What backup will you have in the in-project period to ensure no data is lost?
- How the data will be stored in the long term
- Where have you decided to store it, why is this appropriate?
- How long will it be stored for and why?
- Costs of storage – why are these appropriate? Costs related to long term storage will be permitted providing these are fully justified and relate to the project. Full justification must be provided in Justification of Resources (JoR)
- How the data will be shared and the value it will have to others
- How the data will enhance the area and how it could be used in the future?
- Releasing the data – advise when you will be releasing and justify if not releasing in line with AHRC guidelines of a minimum of three years. If the data will have value to different audiences, how these groups will be informed?
- Will the data need to be updated? Include future plans for updating if this is the case.

More information about the requirements of the attachments and submission process can be found in the [Research Funding Guide](#).

VIII. Assessment Process and Criteria

Call Timetable

Activity	Date
Deadline for submissions	10 December 2019
Panel meeting date	w/c 6 th January 2020
Funding decisions to be issued	w/c 13 th January 2020
Start date of awards	Earliest 1 st February 2020 Latest 14 th February 2020

Following the deadline for submission, all proposals will be checked for eligibility by AHRC. Proposals will be considered by a cross-disciplinary expert assessment panel drawing on members of the AHRC’s Peer Review College and other experts as appropriate. There will not be a separate

stage of individual peer review for each application prior to consideration by the Panel, therefore applicants will not receive feedback on their applications in the form of individual peer reviewers' comments. The assessment panel will agree grades for each proposal, agree a ranked priority list of applications and make funding recommendations to the AHRC.

The following criteria will be used to assess proposals:

Quality and vision

- the extent to which the proposal meets the specific aims of the call and addresses the areas identified in this document;
- the quality, innovation and appropriateness of the proposed activities and the potential of the proposal to bring new insights to the relevant thematic area(s) and two overarching themes;
- the long-term potential of the project and the extent to which it provides a foundation for larger, longer-term collaborative transatlantic activity that will deliver a transformational impact in digital scholarship for cultural institutions;
- the extent to which the research questions, issues or problems that will be addressed are clearly defined;
- the appropriateness of the research context and methods; the extent to which other current research conducted in this area has been considered, and the range of audiences that might be targeted;
- the extent to which the project will use research rooted in the arts and humanities as the means to generate new, innovative engagements across disciplines, both within the arts and humanities, and beyond.

People, partnerships and management

- the quality and added value of the proposed UK-US partnership;
- the management of the project and the balance of responsibilities between the UK and US and across component HEIs and cultural institutions;
- the credibility and leadership qualities of the PI, the balance of expertise provided by the Co-Is and the level of expertise brought by the project partners;
- whether a realistic timetable, incorporating milestones, is presented which will achieve the project's aims and objectives.

Value for money

- the extent to which the project will represent value for money;
- the scale and appropriateness of the US matched contribution;
- whether the resources requested are reasonable and justifiable in the context of the proposed activity.

Outputs, dissemination and impact

- the appropriateness and effectiveness of the proposed dissemination methods, including knowledge exchange and engagement activities;

- whether the plans to achieve impact are appropriate and support the ambition of delivering a transformational impact on digital scholarship for cultural institutions in the UK and US.

Whilst the primary consideration in the assessment process will be the quality of the applications, in making recommendations to the AHRC for funding, the panel will also be asked to consider the balance of the overall portfolio of projects in terms of themes and scope of the call.

IX. Scheme Requirements and Post Award Reporting

Award holders in the UK will be required to submit outputs, outcomes and impacts that arise from AHRC's funding through the Researchfish system. More details on Researchfish are available on the UKRI website here:

<https://www.ukri.org/funding/information-for-award-holders/research-outcomes/>

Applicants may be asked to share findings and case studies directly with AHRC to help design future opportunities in this programme and contribute to communications activities.

Contact Information

For queries about this call such as eligible activities and costs or remit of the call, please contact AHRC at fic@ahrc.ukri.org or telephone: 01793 416060 (available Monday to Friday 08:30-16:30).

For queries on using Je-S such as creating and submitting the application form or Je-S account creation, please contact the Je-S Helpdesk on 01793 444164 or jeshelp@je-s.ukri.org (available Monday to Friday 08:30 – 17:00).