Digital Scholarship & Publishing Studio Summer Fellowship Program Graduate Student Overview

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2025 Fellow Mahsa Falahbafekrlialestani (Sculpture & Intermedia) presents the results of her summer fellowship project to develop an interactive/digital 3D map of protestors in Iran. Photo by Obatola Layiwola.

Digital Scholarship & Publishing Studio

The Studio collaborates with students, faculty, and staff on the development, design, and implementation of digital scholarly research projects and publications.

Housed in the University of Iowa Libraries, the Studio offers equitable access to space, technology, and digital expertise to shepherd projects from inception to archive.

Consultation & Collaboration

- Idea development
- Identifying technology and format
- Technical assistance
- Skills training
- Instructional resources
- Wayfinding
- Grant expertise

Resources & Services

- GIS mapping
- Podcast studio (space and technology)
- Promotion and outreach
- Tooling
- Education and instruction
- Publication
- Graphic design

Digital Project Management

- Consultation to closeout
- Project life cycle support
- Defined objectives, outputs, and impacts
- Timelines and deliverables
- Collaborative development and execution
- Share your scholarship

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Digital Scholarship & Publishing Summer Fellowship Program

Created in 2017, this summer fellowship program provides opportunities for PhD, DMA, and MFA students to benefit from an in-person, mentored digital scholarship internship experience in the University of Iowa Libraries Digital Scholarship & Publishing Studio.

Students are encouraged to develop their own projects and/or pursue the development of digital scholarly skills, and are given instruction on a host of software and other technology available to create their work.

2025 Digital Scholarship & Publishing Studio Summer Fellowship Cohort. Photo by Obatola Layiwola.

The DS&P Summer Fellowship positions graduate students to pursue innovative ways of thinking about publishing and sharing their creative endeavors.

The Summer 2025 cohort marked **107 awarded graduate students from more than 30 degree programs** since the program's inception.

Digital Scholarship & Publishing Studio Fellowship Structure (2026 Format Refresh!)

- 8-week summer session; collaboratively designed curriculum with project design and management tools in a supportive learning environment.

- Fellows have regular check-in meetings with their Studio staff mentor/s to develop ideas and troubleshoot obstacles.

- At least 20 hours of dedicated digital project or skills development work each week.

- Immersive, cohort-based Orientation Week followed by seven weeks of guided independent project work with a mid-program practitioner intensive.

Fellowship Program Goals

Our collaboratively-designed curriculum is updated annually and strives to:

- Empower graduate students to develop and share innovative digital research or creative projects.

- Build foundational digital skills, project design experience, and publishing literacy.

- Connect fellows to a vibrant community of scholars and practitioners in digital scholarship.

- Develop professional agility through rapid prototyping, iterative design, and transferable project management skills.

2025 Digital Scholarship & Publishing Studio Summer Fellowship Course. Photo by Obatola Layiwola

Course topics:

- Introduction to digital scholarship
- Rapid prototyping
- Project design
- Digital publishing
- Core tools training

Course activities:

- Guest speakers
- Skills workshops
- Mentored project support
- Peer feedback
- End-of-Summer Reception

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Eligibility, Funding, and Application Process

- **DMA, PhD, and MFA candidates are eligible** for a competitive, in-person, mentored digital scholarship internship experience.

- The Graduate College provides a stipend of $5,500 plus a tuition scholarship for one credit hour course and 50% of the mandatory fees. Students are responsible for the remaining fees. **Historically, approximately 10 fellows are selected for each summer cohort.**

- **Applications must be submitted online.** Eligible students may nominate themselves for this award; however, nominations must be submitted by the student's department.

- Submission deadline for our Summer 2026 Fellowship Program is **Wednesday, February 4, 2026 at 5 p.m.** Submissions will be accepted in Workflow beginning Tuesday, January 20, 2026.

- **Ineligible or unfunded activities** include fully-remote experiences or combination awards (DS&P Studio Fellowship cannot be combined with other awards).

Benefits

- Fellows have access to Studio software for projects and digital skills acquisition

- Computer workstations/workspace

- Podcasting studio and technology

- Expertise and mentorship from Studio staff

- Library resources and expertise

- Dedicated time/funding for digital skills and project development

- Transferable skills for professional development (project management, digital methods, software solutions, and problem-solving)

Past Projects

- Twitter Conspiracy Theory Analysis

- Projection Mapping with Interlocking Sculpture

- Nonfiction Craft/Creativity Podcast

- Data Mining for Medieval Messengers

- Measuring Moral Judgment with Affect Control Theory

- Mapping Mennonite Colonies in Latin America

- Mapping Intermedia in Iowa

- Interactive Repository of 19th Century Writings by and about New England's Female Textile Operatives (Mill Girls Archive)

- Mapping Climate-Related Migrations of People

- Design and Digitally Publish a Calligraphy Textbook

Actual Careers

- Artist
- Assistant Director for Graduate Student Success & Assessment
- Author
- Biostatistician
- Coordinator for International Relations with JET Program
- Composer
- Course Improvement Coordinator
- Curator
- Dance Company Manager
- Data Analyst
- Digital Skills Instructor
- Faculty
- Graphic Designer
- Instructional Designer
- Lab Manager
- Learning Designer
- Postdoctoral Research Fellow
- Movement Media Maker

Feedback from Past Fellows

"The fellowship has given me invaluable TIME and STRUCTURE to develop this thesis work ahead of my final semester. Having someone I can bounce ideas off of, show drafts to, get feedback from, and be accountable to has been really, really helpful."

"I feel like a better and more organized researcher. This specific project has come leaps and bounds."

"Thanks to the DS&P Studio Summer Fellowship, I advanced my research into the world of projection mapping and created new pieces of work that will propel me to my thesis exhibition in the spring."

Application Requirements

For more information, please visit the Graduate College's [Summer Fellowship Page](#).

2023 Digital Scholarship & Publishing Studio Summer Fellow Elizabeth Zak presents research on conspiracy theories and the viral spread of misinformation utilizing Twitter data. Photo by Connor Hood.

Student Materials

- Description of a student's proposed project/learning objectives; related experience; how the experience fits into the student's academic and career goals (500 word max).

- Transcript (unofficial acceptable)

- A one-page CV of educational and professional experience, honors and awards, and publications/creative works.

Letter of Support

- One letter from the nominee's advisor that includes an assessment of the student's qualifications to carry out the planned summer activities, and how it will impact the student's academic and career goals.

Project Proposal Best Practices

Consider examining and answering the following research questions in your project proposal:

- What is your project? Past projects include websites, podcasts, digital maps, open-educational resources, digital textbooks, artistic installations, and multimedia projects.

- What is your research question? What is the significance of the proposed digital project and methods?

- What research or data-gathering work have you already done for this project? Do you know what data, texts, or archival collections you will utilize and where to find those resources?

- What prior experience do you have with the proposed digital methods? What prior experience do you have with relevant digital skills, tools, and/or other collaborative digital projects?

- How does the proposed project relate to your degree and professional objectives?

Project Proposal Best Practices

Consider examining and addressing your learning objectives throughout your project proposal:

- What digital skillset, digital methods, or tools would you like to learn, and how do they relate to your research areas?

- How will this new skillset help you to achieve your degree and professional objectives?

- Have you done previous courework that introduced you to the digital skillset, method, or tools you are interested in learning?

Project Proposal Best Practices

In addition to including your degree objective and anticipated graduation date, we recommend highlighting the following experience in your one-page CV:

- Previous digital project experience.

- Related research experience relevant to the project and/or your learning objectives (employment experience, internship, GRA, practicum, library or archival research).

- Relevant classwork and digital skillsets (courses taken, digital methods utilized, software used, etc.).

- Evidence of collaboration or engagement with campus or community partners.

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Requesting Letters of Support and Meeting Application Deadlines

Several weeks in advance of the application deadline, meet with or communicate with your advisor regarding the fellowship program, your proposed project/learning objectives for the summer, and your request for a letter of support.
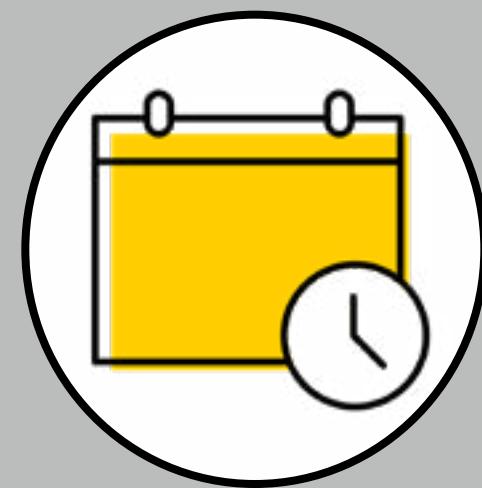
- Provide your advisor with the materials they need to write your letter. Offer a rough draft of the project proposal and one-page CV.

- Be sure to let your advisor know how to direct your letter of support, as the department will need to submit application materials on your behalf.

- Some departments may set internal deadlines for applications that are earlier than the official graduate college deadline to allow time for submission. Always check with your department regarding such deadlines and communicate them to your advisor.

- Some advisors appreciate a kind reminder email a few days prior to the deadline and almost everyone appreciates a thank-you email following the completion of a letter of support.

Best Practices and Advice for Competitive Applications

As a graduate student, you can prepare successful applications in the following ways:

Reach out to previous DS&P Studio Summer Fellows in your department to learn about their experiences.

Keep in mind the 8-week timeframe for the fellowship and think of your project in steps or stages.

Request a consultation with Studio staff in advance of the application deadline.

Make sure you clearly explain how the fellowship experience supports and advances your degree and professional goals.

2026 Summer Fellowship Application Workshops

October

Tuesday, Oct. 21, 2025
10 to 11 AM
Digital Scholarship & Publishing Studio;
Classroom 1015A, Main Library

Register!

December

Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2025
1 to 2 PM
Digital Scholarship & Publishing Studio;
Classroom 1015A, Main Library

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Questions?
Collaborate with us!

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