**JRRI Digital Humanities Project Start-up Grant**

**Application deadline: 12pm, 14 December 2020**

**Applications should be e-mailed to:** [**jrri@manchester.ac.uk**](mailto:jrri@manchester.ac.uk)

**Overview**

Digital Humanities scholarship is dynamic and rapidly evolving. Special Collections lie at the heart of many of the most exciting developments. Yet there remain barriers around the time and resources needed in the early stages of the project. Those new to DH require hands-on practice and/or specialist technical support; even those with more experience must test new tools.

The JRRI DH Project Start-up Grant is open to both those with extensive experience and those new to digital scholarship. We welcome applications from academic staff at the University of Manchester wishing to engage in DH projects. These grants must be taken up between 1 January and 31 July 2021. They must be conducted in preparation for a larger, externally funded grant bid that would be held at the University of Manchester. Please note that whilst the Library is doing all it can to facilitate access to the Special Collections during the pandemic, some restrictions may apply and things may change according to local restrictions. It is worth talking to either Institute staff or specific collection curators, in advance of applying, to discuss any potential issues.

Grants of up to £5,000 are available to cover activities directly linked to the type of research and grant preparation described above. Please note that for the 2020/21 academic year these grants cannot be used for teaching buyouts, but can be used to pay a research assistant. Guidance on calculating research assistance costs is available from the JRRI office.

**Possible areas might include (but not limited to):**

* Network or other data visualisations
* Text and data mining
* GIS and mapping
* Literary and linguistic analysis
* Materials analysis using advanced imaging techniques
* Bespoke applications related to an individual’s or group’s research project

**What will the applicant receive?**

* A maximum of £5,000 will be awarded per application
* Support from expert curators, conservators and imaging specialists
* Support from the Institute grant writer in developing a larger externally funded project linked to the start-up grant

**The grant will not cover:**

* Attendance at external training events and conferences
* Digital projects whose primary focus is teaching and learning
* Projects whose primary focus is digitisation, though some digitisation may take place as part of the project
* Projects that do not use the Special Collections of the University of Manchester

**Eligibility:**

* Academic researchers at the University of Manchester
* Team applications are possible, if all applicants meet the eligibility criteria

Please ask the JRRI office if you are unsure about the eligibility of other forms of expense.

**Assessment criteria:**

Applications will be ranked on merit against criteria based on the extent to which they:

* Demonstrate the potential for Digital Humanities to make a meaningful contribution to research using the UML Special Collections
* Improve the chances of securing external funding
* Increase the academic and/or non-academic impact of the individual / team’s research
* Build new collaborations with or within the University of Manchester
* Build capacity in Digital Humanities

Prior technical knowledge and expertise do not form part of the assessment criteria.

**Application process:**

Application forms are available at: <http://www.jrri.manchester.ac.uk/research/funding/>

The completed application form should include:

* The names and affiliation of the application team with contact details for the lead applicant (who will serve as the grant holder, if successful).
* A short summary of the relevant experience of each person involved (approx. 500 words).
* Details of the intended project to include: title, start and end dates, objectives, methodology, outputs.
* An outline of the sources from the UML Special Collections to be consulted/utilised.
* Future plans for the research project which must include grant capture.
* Brief up to date curriculum vitae and list of relevant publications (max. 2 pages each).
* The technical requirements of the proposed project, in as much detail as possible (NB. Full technical specifications are not needed at this stage).
* Financial estimates of costs should be included, but will be subject to review and modification by the assessment panel.

Pre-application advice is available from:

* the Manager of the JRRI, Kat Lowe: [katherine.lowe@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:katherine.lowe@manchester.ac.uk)
* the Director of the JRRI, Hannah Barker: [hannah.barker@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:hannah.barker@manchester.ac.uk)

The significance and scope of the University of Manchester Special Collections is extensive. We advise applicants to consult the [Guide to Special Collections](https://www.library.manchester.ac.uk/search-resources/special-collections/guide-to-special-collections/) and the searchable [A-Z](https://www.library.manchester.ac.uk/search-resources/special-collections/guide-to-special-collections/a-to-z/) on the University of Manchester Library website for more information on our holdings. We also strongly recommend that applicants get in touch with relevant curators early on in the application planning process. Information about curators and their subject specialisms can be found on the [JRRI website](https://www.jrri.manchester.ac.uk/about/people/curators/)

Advice on the UML Special Collections and on previous applications of Digital Humanities tools with UML Special Collections can also be directed to Jane Gallagher, Digital Engagement Manager [jane.gallagher@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:jane.gallagher@manchester.ac.uk)

**What will the Institute expect from the applicant?**

* All awarded DH Project Start-Up funding must be spent before **31 July 2021** and claim forms must also be submitted by this date.
* A short report at the end of their project.
* An application for follow-on funding based on the research supported by the DH Project Start-Up Grant to an external grant awarding body by an agreed date.