

HBW's Digital Publishing Scholars Program: The Black Book Interactive Project (BBIP)

White Paper for Award HAA-281030-21
History of Black Writing (HBW)
“Building Literacy and Curating [Critical Cultural] Knowledge in
Black Humanities (BLACK DH)”

National Endowment for the Humanities: Office of Digital Humanities
Digital Humanities Advancement Grants
December 2024

Authors: Ayesha K. Hardison, Maryemma Graham, Erin Murray, Sarah Arbuthnot Lendt

Contents

Project Summary 3

Project Origins and Goals 4

Project Activities, Team, and Participants 6

 Team 6

 Pre-DPSP Activities 7

 DPSP Activities 8

 DPSP Advisors 9

 Website 10

 Challenges 10

Project Outcomes 10

 DPSP Participants 10

 Webinars 11

 Digital Publications 12

 BBIP Mini-Conferences 13

 Website 13

 Training and Professionalization Opportunities for Students 13

Project Evaluation, Impact, and Continuation 14

Appendix A: BBIP Scholars Program Advert 16

Appendix B: BBIP Workshops List 18

Appendix C: BBIP Mini-Conference Schedules 19

Project Summary

At a time when the Digital Humanities (DH) extends its reach into all areas of scholar research and production, and with discussions of race more central than ever to academic and public discourse, DH communities must account for the ways it provides access to training, professional opportunities, marginalized materials, and project support. In response to these needs, the History of Black Writing (HBW) launched the fourth iteration of its well-respected Black Book Interactive Project (BBIP): “Building Literacy and Curating [Critical Cultural] Knowledge in Black Humanities (BLACK DH).” A major objective of BLACK DH was the launch of two pilot cohorts of the BBIP Digital Publishing Scholars Program (DPSP), in collaboration with African American Studies Publishing Without Walls 2 (AFRO PWW 2) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The DPSP was designed for higher education professionals, graduate students, and scholars who have been actively working with African American and African diaspora literature and who had a DH project nearing the publication stage.

Generous support from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) allowed HBW to accomplish the following as part of the DPSP¹:

Major Outcomes (1/1/2022-12/31/2024)

- Facilitated two cohorts of the DPSP pilot with 23 scholar-participants
- Published 5 peer-reviewed projects from the DPSP in partnership with AFRO PWW 2 and Illinois Open Publishing Network (IOPN)
<https://iopn.library.illinois.edu/omeka/s/BBIP/page/digital-publications>
- Hosted three virtual BBIP Mini-Conferences
- Recorded eight webinars
<https://iopn.library.illinois.edu/omeka/s/BBIP/page/webinars>
- Completed an external evaluation to codify what was learned from the DPSP pilot
- Built a new website for BBIP-related materials including the DPSP, AFRO PWW 2 digital publications
<https://iopn.library.illinois.edu/omeka/s/BBIP/page/welcome>

¹ The DPSP ran concurrently with HBW’s Introduction to Digital Humanities Scholars Program (IDHSP), a preparatory program for scholars just starting out with their digital projects. The two programs are distinct in nature with separate funding and administration. However, because both programs were built upon HBW’s overarching goals to expand research in Black literature and outreach capacity for professionalization opportunities, the two programs ran concurrently with some shared programming. Below the IDH and DP Scholars Programs are numbered consecutively by start date:

- Cohorts I (2019) and II (2020) – IDHSP (Funded by the American Council of Learned Societies)
- Cohort III (2022) – IDHSP (Funded by NEH Humanities Collections and Reference Resources)
- Cohort IV (2022) – DPSP (Funded by NEH Office of Digital Humanities)
- Cohort V (2023) – IDHSP (Funded by NEH Humanities Collections and Reference Resources)
- Cohort VI (2023) – DPSP (Funded by NEH Office of Digital Humanities)

- Provided training and professionalization opportunities for students at the University of Kansas, HBW's host institution

Primary Collaborators

Maryemma Graham, University of Kansas, HBW

Ayesha K. Hardison, Indiana University Bloomington, HBW

marilyn thomas-houston, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, AFRO PWW 2

Kim Gallon, Brown University

Dan Tracy, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, IOPN

Alex Dryden, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, IOPN

Mary Ton, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, IOPN

Erin Murray, University of Kansas, HBW

Itzik Harosh, University of Kansas, HBW

Meleah Perez, University of Kansas, HBW

Sarah Arbuthnot Lendt, Indiana University Bloomington, HBW

Partnerships

AFRO PWW 2

Illinois Open Publishing Network (IOPN)

Links to key content online

DPSP participants <https://iopn.library.illinois.edu/omeka/s/BBIP/page/DP>

DPSP publications <https://iopn.library.illinois.edu/omeka/s/BBIP/page/digital-publications>

Project Origins and Goals

Black authors and their contributions have been marginalized in mainstream literary canons, leading to an incomplete understanding of their impact on literary traditions and cultural history. This exclusion becomes more pronounced when working with digitally accessible sources and, as a result, digital scholarship. This lack of representation and availability not only limits scholarly research, but it also hinders broader access to these works by educators, students, and the public.

The History of Black Writing (HBW) is an interactive research center designed to expose students, instructors, and audiences to literature by Black authors and its study. HBW actively works, through a wide variety of public-facing events and programs, to amplify the importance of Black literature. It is HBW's mission to build a collaborative research community that engages in dialogues about the history of Black books and the future of their recovery and preservation.

HBW strives to bridge the gaps within and between literary studies and digital studies. The center undertakes this work by identifying underrepresented authors, locating and digitizing texts, and implementing an original metadata schema. This schema curates descriptive information attentive to the texts' unique characteristics to build corpora that are searchable, manageable, and usable.

HBW brings the tradition of Black writing and futuristic thinking together. Viewing a corpus of novels or memoirs at scale with descriptive data will yield new information about the African American literary tradition. For example, Nicole Brown et al addresses the problematic silences perpetuated in data with schemas that do not attend to cultural nuance in their essay "In Search of Zora/When Metadata Isn't Enough: Rescuing the Experiences of Black Women Through Statistical Modeling." Their study demonstrates how scholars might retrieve items buried in large archives due to generic metadata.

Comparable to Brown et al's study, HBW recognizes digitization and metadata collection are crucial for ensuring works are discoverable and accessible for scholarly activity and teaching in this technology age. These efforts will allow researchers to locate and analyze materials, providing the basis to engage with individual texts and to look for literary trends. It will also allow instructors to convey more complicated, relational histories about the literary tradition. Furthermore, HBW's digitization and metadata collection will support the integration of these works into larger datasets, such as HathiTrust², to enable comparative studies and interdisciplinary research that challenge the existing paradigm. In alignment with the longstanding mission of HBW, this work contributes to the preservation of these texts, helps to ensure that Black literature receives critical attention, enriches the broader field of literary studies, and fosters a general reading public in the humanities.

Founded in 1983 at the University of Mississippi, HBW was established with the belief that what was being read and taught in higher education represented a small percentage of a larger tradition of Black writing and that technology could provide more insight and access. An initial grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) in 1988 allowed the recovery of 800 published novels that were mostly unknown and unaccounted for in the literary tradition. A database recording bibliographic information about the texts, i.e., publisher and publication date, was HBW's earliest "metadata" effort before the term became more common. During its development, HBW's digitization and metadata objectives have been funded by internal grants from its former institutional home at the University of Kansas and by external grants, such as those awarded by the American

² HBW's partnership with the HathiTrust Research Center (HTRC) (2020-2023), supported by a grant from the Mellon Foundation, allowed a large portion of the HBW Novel Corpus to serve as a flagship project. This entry into the HTRC ecosystem helped HBW to better understand what can and must be done when sparse, incomplete documentation and metadata limit discoverability within a massive digital collection. Learn more about the outcomes of this partnership here: <https://htrc.github.io/scwared/>

Council of Learned Societies, the NEH Office of Digital Humanities, and the Mellon Foundation. This history of funding underscores the significance of HBW's Novel Corpus as the first and largest digital archive of its kind with nearly 7000 titles.

While identifying and digitizing novels are major components of the Black Book Interactive Project, another key aspect is to remove economic, social, and technological barriers to DH learning opportunities. Thus, HBW introduced its first Introduction to DH Scholars Program (IDHSP) in 2019 with funding from the American Council of Learned Societies to provide a much-needed space for dialogue and debate, to advance knowledge, and to generate public-facing scholarship. With the successful completion of two cohorts of IDHSP and a number of those participants with digital projects nearing the publication stage, the DPSP was launched as a response to issues of underrepresentation and collection building in the digital humanities, especially regarding utilizing digital publication formats. Eight of the 23 accepted applicants for the DPSP were IDHSP alumni.

Project Activities, Team, and Participants

Generous NEH funding provided support for HBW's DPSP for three years (1/1/2022-12/31/2024). This support allotted stipends for scholar-participants; honoraria for the selection committee, advisors, webinar leaders, and developmental editors; payment for the external evaluation; as well as salaries for the graduate student DPSP Coordinator and website developer.

Team

The DPSP administrative team (Team) was led by HBW Founding Director Maryemma Graham and her successor, HBW Director Ayesha Hardison. For this program, HBW partnered with AFRO PWW 2, an imprint of the Illinois Open Publishing Network (IOPN) at the University of Illinois Libraries, to administer two stipended cohorts of the DPSP. AFRO PWW 2 was funded by the Mellon Foundation and co-directed by Marilyn Thomas-Houston and Ronald Bailey. HBW hired graduate student Erin Murray as DPSP Coordinator to handle the day-to-day efforts of running the scholar program and to serve as the first point of contact for program applicants, participants, advisors, webinar presenters, developmental editors, etc. The Coordinator also collected paperwork to process honoraria and stipend payments. Additional administrative support was provided by HBW's Research Project Manager, Sarah Arbuthnot Lendt, who served as the Coordinator for two previous BBIP Scholars Programs, and Meleah Perez, the graduate student Coordinator of the BBIP Introduction to the Digital Humanities Scholar Program (IDHSP), which ran concurrently to the DPSP. The Team met weekly for the duration of the DPSP. These meetings were utilized

to discuss project updates, brainstorm solutions to obstacles encountered, and plan for upcoming events.

Pre-DPSP Activities

HBW formed DPSP Cohort IV in 2022 and Cohort VI in 2023. For both cohorts, the Team designed and circulated promotional materials to solicit prospective applicants. These materials included the following:

- social media posts (Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram) uploaded with regularity until the application deadline
- outreach to BBIP Scholars Program alumni, many of whom work closely with their academic or professional communities consisting of professors, librarians, and nonprofit employees
- flyers circulated at several scholarly and academic conferences that included a QR code leading directly to a webpage with information about the program and a link to the online application form [See Appendix A for the BBIP Scholars Programs Advert]

Applications for the DPSP required a 2-page CV, a letter of recommendation, and written responses to the following prompts:

1. Briefly describe at least one idea you have for a digital publication. Include the media you expect to use, such as images, tables, maps, audio, video, etc. (Maximum 300 words)
2. How does your project relate to your professional goals and responsibilities? (Maximum 150 words)
3. List your qualifications and experiences that have prepared you to produce a digital publication for online distribution, such as previous DH work or digital publishing projects, programs attended, committees joined, digital publishing applications, etc. (Maximum 150 words)
4. State your anticipated audience and how you expect your publication to be used. (Maximum 150 words)
5. If you are applying as part of a team, address your partnership and the respective strengths the team members will bring. (Maximum 150 words)

To streamline the application submission and review processes, applicants entered their written responses to these questions, as well as contact and demographic information, into an online Qualtrics form, which also allowed applicants to upload their CVs. To maintain privacy, recommenders submitted their letters separately via email to the DPSP Coordinator. The DPSP Coordinator collected and organized all application materials in an online folder shared with the Selection Committee.

The DPSP Selection Committee reviewed and evaluated all complete applications based on their suitability for the program. The Committee consisted of:

- Kim Gallon, Associate Professor of Africana Studies, Brown University
- Maryemma Graham, Distinguished Professor of English and Founding Director of the History of Black Writing, University of Kansas
- marilyn thomas-houston, Associate Professor Emerita, University of Florida, and Co-Director AFRO PWW 2, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

DPSP Activities

The DPSP was designed primarily for higher education professionals and scholars as well as advanced graduate students with DH projects nearing the publication stage. Twenty-three stipends were available for DPSP participants across the two cohorts. The \$2,275 stipend was paid in two installments: the first \$1,140 after attendance and participation in the introductory meeting, and the second \$1,135 after completion of the program requirements at the end of the grant term in December 2024.

DPSP participants were required to:

- Complete the AFRO PWW 2 digital publishing training modules, which introduced the four open-source digital publishing platforms supported by IOPN as well as a sandbox in which users model project components.
- Consult with the AFRO PWW 2 Tech Team about their digital publishing projects to discuss their plans for their projects and troubleshoot technical issues as early in the process as possible.
- Attend regular webinars that provided training on the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to complete their digital publication. Webinars were recorded, captions were added and edited for accessibility, and the resources were made available to the DPSP cohort and the public on the BBIP website as well as HBW's YouTube channel.
- Meet virtually with their DPSP advisors. The DPSP Team paired participants with scholars who could provide insight and expertise specific to the participants' digital publications. Two meetings were required.
- Participate in the annual BBIP Mini-Conferences, which were virtual gatherings with current and past BBIP Scholars and advisors. The conferences included keynote speakers, presentations on DH works-in-progress, collaborative workshops, and sessions fostering community building.
- Collaborate with DPSP developmental editors who offered support on manuscript writing, UI/UX, publication design, and digital platform functionality.
- Publish their peer-reviewed digital projects or move them toward publication.

DPSP sessions (meetings, workshops, and webinars) were held virtually via Zoom. Each session was scheduled for 90 minutes and attendance was mandatory. All sessions were recorded via Zoom and shared first with cohort members who may have missed the live session and/or wanted to review the session's content. Participants unable to attend a

session due to scheduling conflicts were expected to notify the DPSP Coordinator ahead of time. Webinar recordings were edited to include closed captioning for accessibility, and then they were posted on the BBIP website and HBW's YouTube channel for broader public access.

The DPSP Coordinator communicated regularly via email with the cohort members, reminding them of upcoming sessions, deadlines, etc. The DPSP Coordinator also hosted the cohort sessions on Zoom to answer any program logistics questions.

Additional (not required) opportunities for program participants included:

- attend virtual and/or in-person workshops. [See Appendix B for workshops list of titles/topics, presenters, and dates.]
- provide user experience feedback and suggestions to shape the creation of the *History of Black Writing (HBW) Novel Corpus PhiloLogic User Guide: General Information, Search Functions, and Features* by former BBIP Scholar Sarah Mease.

DPSP Advisors

DPSP advisors were selected based on their scholarly interests and the expertise they would bring to the DPSP participants' digital projects. Some advisors had DH expertise while others were subject matter experts. As DPSP participants developed their projects, the DPSP Team identified an advisor who could help them advance their work to the next stage. Project funding paid each advisor \$250 for two meetings with their respective advisee; these were typically held over Zoom. Some advisors worked with multiple advisees.

- Giselle Anatol, University of Kansas
- David Bamman, University of California, Berkeley
- Marta Caminero-Santangelo, University of Kansas
- Julian Chambliss, Michigan State University
- Sandra Garret Channon, College of Fellows of the American Theatre
- Amy Earhart, Texas A&M University
- Stephanie Fitzgerald, Arizona State University
- Irma McClaurin, Independent Scholar
- Taiwo Olorunjoba-Oju, University of Ilorin
- Najarian Peters, University of Kansas
- Gwendolyn Pough, Syracuse University
- Rob Schwaller, University of Kansas
- Beverly Guy Sheftall, Spelman College
- Shanna Smith, Jackson State University
- Tiera Tanksley, University of Colorado Boulder
- Robert Warrior, University of Kansas

- Doretha Williams, Smithsonian Institute
- Erin Wolfe, University of Kansas
- Nazera Wright, University of Kentucky

Website

With the shuttering of its original BBIP website, HBW partnered with AFRO PWW 2 and IOPN to build a new BBIP site at the University of Illinois Libraries to showcase the DPSP publications. Under the guidance of University of Illinois Libraries Research Programmer Alex Dryden, HBW graduate student Coordinator Itzik Harosh built the new BBIP site.

Challenges

The DPSP faced two major challenges as it administered the pilot program. These issues mainly revolved around participants' time commitments and understanding of program expectations, which impacted participants' attrition. While the AFRO PWW 2 digital publishing course and training opportunities were robust and the technical support by that team was stellar, the workload for individual scholars to move through the digital publishing process while maintaining other professional responsibilities, such as teaching and institutional service, proved daunting for many DPSP participants. As a result, many scholars withdrew from the program before completing the requirements. In addition, a number of participants did not fully understand the scholarly research expectations and editorial requirements of the DPSP, which upheld standard guidelines for peer reviews of digital projects as expected of traditional scholarly publications.

Project Outcomes

DPSP Participants

Twenty-three DPSP participants were admitted to the program and completed all or a portion of the requirements:

- Amanda Bennett, Duke University
- Jada Bradley, Writer and Independent Scholar
- Lavonda Broadnax, Library of Congress
- Charity Clay, Xavier University of Louisiana
- Naajidah Correll, Michigan State University
- Marina del Sol, Howard University

- Crystal Donkor, Southern Methodist University
- Jenny Factor, Brandeis University
- Kandice Fowlkes, Kennesaw State University
- Michelle Gibbs, California State University, Long Beach
- Eliseo Jacob, Howard University
- Hai In Jo, Texas A&M University
- Sherry Johnson, Grand Valley State University
- kYmberly Keeton, University of North Texas
- Valerie Kelco, University of North Carolina at Greensboro
- Kole Odutola, University of Florida
- La Tanya Rogers, Fisk University
- Jacinta Saffold, Emory University
- Khirsten Scott, University of Pittsburgh
- Rochelle Spencer, Writer and Independent Scholar
- M’Balía Thomas, University of Arizona
- Sondra Bickham Washington, Florida Atlantic University
- Cocoa Williams, Spelman College

Webinars

These sessions provided training and knowledge to advance participants’ digital projects, and they also gave participants space to raise questions with featured presenters as well as foster community among cohorts.

Eight webinars were recorded and shared with the DPSP participants as well as the public:

- “Black Collection Building Praxis and Black Digital Publishing” by Kim Gallon, Associate Professor of Africana Studies, Brown University (<https://youtu.be/-uKDluEzoRU?si=XaxroU6LERrb30MO>)
- “Introduction to the HathiTrust Research Center and Extracted Features” by Ryan Dubnicek and Janet Swatscheno, HathiTrust Research Center (<https://youtu.be/MOlfqeQL8pl?si=jofD-5oB1YNuYsVb>)
- “Why a Black Feminist Archive? Part I” by Irma McClaurin, Independent Scholar (<https://youtu.be/6ZNs9hZe7dM?si=F8AKaDPK8A1-TGhN>)
- “Why a Black Feminist Archive? Part II” by Irma McClaurin, Independent Scholar (<https://youtu.be/xDyAIEZ8kbs?si=Nwe2OX42ZnRhp49D>)
- “Public Humanities and Community Engagement: The Millican Massacre and Residual Violences” by Toniesha Taylor, Associate Professor of Communication, Texas Southern University, and Amy Earhart, Associate Professor of English, Texas A&M University (<https://youtu.be/Ujymbx4axm8?si=xPcLgos815P1-HTF>)

- “Metadata Q&A” by Erin Wolfe, Metadata Librarian, University of Kansas (<https://youtu.be/OZqjVUUmPmc?si=unNUMrApXHILF1Lc>)
- “Peer Review, Copyediting, and Tenure” by Sara Cohen, Editorial Director, University of Michigan Press, and Allison Levy, Director, Brown University Digital Publications (<https://youtu.be/y2mHBiZtKRk?si=VHUwj2XlKxrNqZe6>)
- “Francophone Epistemologies: Caribbean Digital Praxis” by Kaiama Glover, Professor of African American Studies and French, Yale University (<https://youtu.be/rvayt14cPks?si=zt8mJYz4CmDv4JOK>)

Digital Publications

Five DPSP participants published their digital projects with AFRO PWW 2 and the Illinois Open Publishing Network by the end of the grant term. Their publications utilize DH methods in the context of a range of topics, namely African American literary studies, ethnic studies, rhetoric and media studies, and cultural history:

- Broadnax, Lavonda Kay. *Shining Stars: African American Women Authors of the Civil War Era*. Illinois Open Publishing Network, 2025. <https://doi.org/10.21900/pww.27>
- Fowlkes, Kandice Rainn. *Decoding Cultural Literacy: Rhetorically Analyzing Everyday Media for Professional Writers*. Illinois Open Publishing Network, 2025. <https://doi.org/10.21900/pww.30>
- Jo, Hai In. *Enrolling as Cherokee Freedmen: Social Networks of Rejected Applicants*. Illinois Open Publishing Network, 2025. <https://doi.org/10.21900/pww.26>
- Rogers, La Tanya L. and Tanya E. Walker. *The Motherhood Aesthetic in Contemporary African American Women’s Drama*. Illinois Open Publishing Network, 2025. <https://doi.org/10.21900/pww.29>
- Bickham Washington, Sondra. *Beyond NOLA: Exploring Zora Neale Hurston in Bogalusa, Louisiana’s Magic City*. Illinois Open Publishing Network, 2025. <https://doi.org/10.21900/pww.28>

As part of a promotional effort, HBW solicited brief peer reviews for each of the digital publications. Those reviews were posted on HBW’s website, as well as shared on social media. Review authors and links:

- *Beyond NOLA: Exploring Zora Neale Hurston in Bogalusa, Louisiana’s Magic City* review by Jessina Emmert (University of Kansas): <https://hbw.iu.edu/research-publications/bbip-reviews/beyond-nola.html>
- *Decoding Cultural Literacy: Rhetorically Analyzing Everyday Media for Professional Writers* review by Taryn Myers (West Chester University): <https://hbw.iu.edu/research-publications/bbip-reviews/decoding-cultural-literacy.html>

- *Enrolling as Cherokee Freedmen: The Social Networks of Rejected Applicants* review by Eve Eure (Lehman College, CUNY): <https://hbw.iu.edu/research-publications/bbip-reviews/enrolling-as-choerokee-freedmen.html>
- *The Motherhood Aesthetic in Contemporary Black American Plays* review by Ladrica Menson-Furr (University of Memphis): <https://hbw.iu.edu/research-publications/bbip-reviews/motherhood-aesthetic.html>
- *Shining Stars: African American Women Authors of the Civil War Era* review by Derrick R. Spires (University of Delaware): <https://hbw.iu.edu/research-publications/bbip-reviews/shining-stars.html>

Up to six additional projects from the DPSP may be published by AFRO PWW 2 and IOPN in the coming months from scholars who met program requirements but were not able to complete their work during the grant term.

BBIP Mini-Conferences

Three BBIP Mini-Conferences were held in Fall 2022, 2023, and 2024. Each included a keynote address, BBIP scholar presentations on DH projects-in-progress, and the opportunity for current and former BBIP scholars to advance their work and build community. [See Appendix C for the Mini-Conference schedules.]

Website

Dryden designed and Harosh built the new BBIP website with space for DPSP participant and advisor bios; DH resources, including the webinars; and the DPSP digital publications. (<https://iopn.library.illinois.edu/omeka/s/BBIP/page/welcome>)

Training and Professionalization Opportunities for Students

Work on the grant deliverables provided the opportunity for DH training, professionalization, leadership, collaboration, outreach, public speaking, and technical skills for graduate student DPSP Coordinator Erin Murray. Murray also contributed to the writing of this white paper. Additionally, graduate student Itzik Harosh expanded his technical and collaborative skills as the lead website builder.

Project Evaluation, Impact, and Continuation

HBW evaluated the DPSP based on the project's achievement of its main objectives 1) to launch two pilot cohorts, and 2) advance DH projects already nearing publication to completion.

HBW's goal to support two cohorts of DPSP Scholars through the digital publishing process, which required skills and platforms new to many of the participants, was an ambitious one. While the AFRO PWW 2 digital publishing course and training opportunities were comprehensive and the technical team was responsive and supportive, the workload for individual BBIP Scholars to progress through the program while managing other professional responsibilities was challenging. Also, some participating scholars did not fully understand the program's research expectations and editorial requirements for publishing peer-reviewed digital projects.

To mitigate the impact of the challenges detailed above, HBW implemented the following changes:

- Extended the timeframe for the first cohort from one to two years to allow those scholars to have until the end of the grant term to complete their projects;
- Implemented a firmer schedule of deliverables for the second cohort to aid in keeping scholars on track for advancing their projects toward publication;
- Added webinars directly addressing issues the Team observed developing for the scholars and/or identified by the scholars themselves;
- Required scholars to present at the Mini-Conferences to provide updates on works-in-progress and keep them on schedule for publication;
- Increased communication with scholar-participants to make program requirements clearer and to solicit regular status updates;
- Repurposed unused scholar stipends to hire developmental editors to support scholars' project development;
- Partnered with the Achievement and Assessment Institute at the University of Kansas to conduct an external evaluation to codify lessons and best practices from the DPSP pilot program;
- Invited DPSP participants to draft program narratives reflecting on their learning outcomes and growth opportunities to inform future iterations of the program.

Pairing the DPSP participants with an advisor who had DH experience and/or expertise in their projects' subject matter was intended to help the DPSP Scholars advance their projects. The pairing also served to expand the DPSP participants' professional networks.

Added to the BBIP library of DH training webinars, the eight new webinars recorded for the DPSP extended HBW's efforts to build a foundation of shared knowledge for students, scholars, and members of the public who may be interested in this work. The webinars

were offered synchronously for the DPSP cohort, but the recordings were edited with captions to increase their accessibility before they were posted on the BBIP website and HBW's YouTube channel. These webinars will continue to be a resource for the BBIP Scholars as well as a broad public in the future.

The virtual BBIP Mini-Conferences brought together current and previous cohorts of BBIP Scholars as well as their advisors from across the country. These gatherings, which were held each year of the pilot program, functioned to foster community among the cohorts and expand the DPSP participants' professional networks.

HBW partnered with Dr. Haiying Long from the Achievement and Assessment Institute at the University of Kansas to complete an external evaluation of the DPSP to learn as much as possible from all the scholar-participants' experiences, including how HBW might modify and improve the program in the future to return a higher retention and completion rate. The evaluation by Dr. Long was a summative assessment that entailed a review of the program records; an anonymous survey with close-ended and open-ended questions about participants' accomplishments, perceptions, and satisfaction with each aspect of the DPSP; and one-on-one interviews. Dr. Long provided a robust report that highlights the DPSP's strengths and weaknesses and recommends specific and actionable improvements in the areas of program structure, content, climate and mentorship, feedback and guidance, and peer collaboration.

With these insights about the DPSP pilot program, having facilitated six cohorts of BBIP Scholars Programs to date, , and having directed multiple NEH Summer Institutes (both in-person and virtual), HBW is confident in its ability to replicate and expand this type of professional development program. Since the BBIP Scholars Program first launched in 2019, HBW has maintained regular contact with program alumni by informing them of new DH opportunities and events as well as encouraging them to share calls for applicants with their professional networks. Additionally, HBW invites program alums to serve as Selection Committee members for new cohorts, partner on new projects, and participate in the BBIP Mini-Conferences, among other activities, to remain engaged with and connected to BBIP. HBW expects these ongoing relationships to continue in the future.

In 2024, HBW moved from the University of Kansas to Indiana University Bloomington with Director Ayesha Hardison. This relocation and institutional transition require a pause on seeking additional funding for new BBIP Scholar Program cohorts, during which HBW will conceptualize and plan for the future of the BBIP Scholars Program.

Appendix A: BBIP Scholars Program Advert

(FRONT)

INTRO TO DIGITAL HUMANITIES CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Deadline: January 30

STIPEND INCLUDED

The Black Book Interactive Project (BBIP) at the University of Kansas seeks applicants for our forthcoming *Introduction to Digital Humanities* program. This program is designed for professionals, graduate students, and independent scholars who have an interest in learning more about the Digital Humanities.

This program is funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, and is part of HBW's ongoing Black Book Interactive Project (BBIP) Scholars Program.

Interested? Contact Meleah Perez, Scholars Program Coordinator: bbip@ku.edu.



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES

HBW
HISTORY ■ BLACK WRITING

(BACK)

DIGITAL PUBLISHING CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Deadline: January 30

STIPEND INCLUDED

The History of Black Writing at the University of Kansas seeks applicants for our upcoming *Digital Publishing* program. This program is designed for professionals and graduate students working with Black literature who have a Digital Humanities project to prepare for publication.

This program is part of HBW's ongoing Black Book Interactive Project (BBIP) Scholars Program, in partnership with the Mellon-funded AFRO Publishing Without Walls 2 (AFRO PWW 2) at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

Interested? Contact Erin Murray, Scholars Program Coordinator:
blackdh@ku.edu.



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES

HBW
HISTORY OF BLACK WRITING

Mellon
Foundation

AFRO
PWW₂

Appendix B: BBIP Workshops List

***Funding for all workshops was provided by a separate NEH DHAG grant. All current and former BBIP Scholars, including those from the IDHSP, were invited to participate.

“Public Humanities and Community Engagement: The Millican Massacre and Residual Violences”

- Presented by Toniesha L. Taylor, Texas Southern University, and Amy E. Earhart, Texas A&M University
- Virtual – co-hosted by HBW and the Detroit Public Library, Detroit, MI
- Audience – current and former BBIP Scholars, Detroit Public Library patrons, and members of the general public
- Recorded October 4, 2023
- <https://youtu.be/3z-juuH8tYA?si=pwBFZc6eYTcZVGY7>

“HathiTrust Research Center’s Introductory Digital Humanities Workshop”

- Presented by Ryan Dubnicsek and Janet Swatscheno, HathiTrust Research Center
- In-Person – co-hosted by HBW and HathiTrust Research Center as part of the CLA Convention, Memphis, TN
- Audience –CLA Convention registrants, including current and former BBIP Scholars in attendance
- April 13, 2024

“Game Jam: Discover the Components of Game Development”

- Presented by Kishonna Gray, University of Michigan
- In-Person – co-hosted by HBW and the Detroit Public Library, Detroit, MI
- Audience – Detroit Public Library patrons, especially high school and college students; current and former BBIP Scholars
- October 8, 2024

“Digital Humanities: Curating Black Archives”

- Presented by Ayesha Hardison, Indiana University Bloomington, Doretha Williams, Smithsonian Institute, Cocoa Williams, Spelman College, and Ashley Simmons, University of Kansas
- In-Person – co-hosted by HBW and UNCF-Mellon Programs Conference, Atlanta, GA
- Audience – multiple generations of Mellon Mays scholars
- October 8, 2024

Appendix C: BBIP Mini-Conference Schedules

a. BBIP Mini-Conference 2022

BBIP MINI CONFERENCE

Friday, October 21st, 2022

Navigating Copyright in Digital Publications

Start Time: 2:00 pm

End Time: 3:30 pm

ZOOM LINK

Meeting ID: 858 0553 4979

Password: 587113

PRESENTER BIO

SARA BENSON, J.D.

Sara Benson, is the Copyright Librarian and an Associate Professor in the Scholarly Communication and Publishing Unit at the University of Illinois Library. She is also affiliated with the Center for Global Studies and the European Union Center at the University of Illinois. She holds a JD from the University of Houston Law Center, an LLM from Boalt Hall School of Law at Berkeley, and an MSLIS from the School of Information Science at the University of Illinois. Sara is the author of the book Compact Copyright published by ALA Editions in 2021 and host of the Podcast ©hat (“Copyright Chat”) available on iTunes at <https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/hat/id1228231003?mt=2>.

Social Hour

Start Time: 3:30 pm

End Time: 5:00 pm

ZOOM LINK

MEETING ID: 925 3485 4680

PASSCODE: 102122

Please join us after the webinar for a virtual social hour to build community, share space with one another, and relax to end the day with a beverage and snack.

b. BBIP Mini-Conference 2023

BBIP MINI CONFERENCE

Saturday, October 22nd

Scholar & Alumni Presentations

Start Time: 9:00 am

[ZOOM LINK](#)

End Time: 12:00 pm

MEETING ID: 928 0148 3135

PASSCODE: 102222

TIME	TITLE	PRESENTER
9:00 - 9:10 am	Opening Remarks & Welcome	Maryemma Graham Marilyn Thomas Houston
9:10 - 9:25 am	Curated Vocabularies and Mary McLeod Bethune: From BBIP to SCWAreD	Clarissa West-White
9:25 - 9:40 am	Minor Disruptions: On Black Literature and the American Southwest	Seth Horton
9:40 - 9:55 am	Afro-Artivismo in Brazil	Eliseo Jacob
9:55 - 10:10 am	"Walking altogether like harmony in a song": A Virtual Celebration of the Eatonville Community	Valerie Kelco
10:10 - 10:25 am	Trains in the HBW Corpus: Social Geography's Junction with the Social Imagination	Kevin Lucas
10:25 - 10:40 am	BREAK	
10:40 - 10:55 am	The Evolution of Self-Documentation in African American Community Archives in Texas	kYmberly Keeton
10:55 - 11:10 am	Engaging HBCU Students in Digital Learning Experiences	Marina del Sol
11:10 - 11:25 am	Building Theatre Audiences & Increasing Digital Engagement in the Theatrical Works of Zora Neale Hurston	Michelle Gibbs
11:25 - 11:40 am	"Afrirurality" and "Rhetorical Rurality Expressed"	Kevin Hales
11:40 am - Noon	GENERAL Q & A	

c. BBIP Mini-Conference 2024

BBIP MINI CONFERENCE

Saturday, October 22nd, 2024

Lunch

Start Time: Noon

End Time: 12:45 pm

Workshop Groups

Start Time: 12:45 pm

End Time: 2:30 pm

ZOOM LINK

MEETING ID: 990 8624 5988

PASSCODE: 102222

Scholars will be divided into groups of 2-3 with BBIP Alumni and Advisors.

Scholars will have 30-45 min to:

- Provide an overview of their project
- Share their successes and pain points
- Ask for specific feedback on certain project components
- Ask for general feedback on the project overall

Alumni and Advisors will:

- Ask specific and general questions about projects
- Share their personal experience and expertise as it relates to Scholars' projects
- Provide productive and actionable feedback to Scholars
- Share any resources that may be useful to Scholars

From all of us

THANK
you