

**HBW's Introduction to the Digital Humanities Scholars Program:
The Black Book Interactive Project (BBIP)**

White Paper for Grant PW-277575-21

History of Black Writing

“Black Book Interactive Project III”

National Endowment for the Humanities: Division of Preservation and Access
Humanities Collections and Reference Resources

June 2025

Authors: Maryemma Graham, Ayesha K. Hardison, Sarah Arbuthnot Lendt,
Meleah Perez

Contents

- Project Summary 3**
- Project Origins and Goals 4**
- Project Activities, Team, and Participants..... 6**
 - Team 6
 - Pre-IDHSP Activities 6
 - IDHSP Activities..... 7
 - General Program Timeline 9
 - IDHSP Advisors..... 9
- Project Outcomes 10**
 - IDHSP Participants10
 - 2022 Cohort.....10
 - 2023 Cohort.....10
 - Potential DH Projects11
 - BBIP Mini Conferences.....12
 - Webinars.....12
 - IDHSP CLA Panel.....13
 - Training and Professionalization Opportunities for Students13
- Project Evaluation, Impact, and Continuation 14**
 - Evaluation and Impact14
 - Project Continuation and Long-Term Impact14
- Appendix 16**
 - A: BBIP Scholars Program Advert16
 - B: IDHSP Critical Reflection Assignment.....18
 - C: BBIP Workshops List.....19
 - D: BBIP Mini-Conference Schedules20

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, the DH community must account for the ways it provides inclusive access to DH training as well as materials that have been historically marginalized. In response to this need, the History of Black Writing (HBW) launched the third iteration of its well-respected Black Book Interactive Project (BBIP III) by continuing its Introduction to DH Scholars Program, which supports the development and dissemination of DH projects. BBIP III aimed to increase the involvement of those who remain outside established DH networks.

Generous support from the National Endowment for the Humanities allowed HBW to accomplish the following as part of the Introduction to DH Scholars Program (IDHSP)¹:

Major Outcomes (7/1/2021-6/30/2023)

- Facilitated two cohorts (27 scholar-participants total) with varied research interests from different organizations and institutions including universities, research centers, museums, and libraries
- Hosted two virtual BBIP Mini-Conferences
- Recorded six webinars <https://iopen.library.illinois.edu/omeka/s/BBIP/page/webinars>
- Presented an IDHSP panel at the 2024 College Language Association (CLA) Annual Convention
- 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

Amy Earhart, Texas A&M University

¹ The IDHSP ran concurrently with HBW's Digital Publishing Scholars Program (DPSP), a more intensive program for scholars with digital projects nearing publication. 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 and 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)

Seretha Williams, Augusta University
Conrad Pegues, University of Tennessee at Martin
Meleah Perez, University of Kansas, HBW
Erin Murray, University of Kansas, HBW
Sarah Arbuthnot Lendt, Indiana University Bloomington, HBW

Partnerships:

University of Kansas Libraries
College Language Association (CLA)
Textual Optics Lab, University of Chicago

Links to key content online:

IDHSP participants <https://iopn.library.illinois.edu/omeka/s/BBIP/page/IDH>
IDHSP advisors <https://iopn.library.illinois.edu/omeka/s/BBIP/page/Advisors>

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 notably 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 the American 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.

The IDHSP was designed for individuals who are actively teaching and working with Black literature but who have minimal experience in DH. The program provided DH training for

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/>

scholars along with access to HBW's Novel Corpus, the largest digital collection of Black fiction currently in existence. By inviting scholars to engage with the collection, HBW desired to increase the discoverability and access to Black-authored texts.

Project Activities, Team, and Participants

Generous NEH funding provided support for HBW's Introduction to Digital Humanities Scholars Program (IDHSP) for two years (7/1/2021-6/30/2023). This support allotted stipends for scholar-participants; honoraria for the selection committee, advisors, and a cohort consultant in the second year; as well as salary for the graduate student IDHSP Coordinator.

Team

The IDHSP administrative team (Team) was led by HBW Founding Director Maryemma Graham and her successor, HBW Director Ayesha Hardison. HBW hired graduate student Meleah Perez as IDHSP 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, 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 Erin Murray, the graduate student Coordinator of the Digital Publishing Scholars Program, which ran concurrently to the IDHSP. The Team met weekly for the duration of the IDHSP. These meetings were utilized to discuss project updates, brainstorm solutions to obstacles encountered, and plan for upcoming events.

Additional DH expertise and leadership was provided in the form of IDHSP Cohort Consultant Amy Earhart, who was enlisted to be a consistent guiding presence to the 2023 cohort of IDHSP Scholars when Graham's research travel schedule conflicted with the regular cohort meetings.

Pre-IDHSP Activities

HBW formed IDHSP Cohort III in 2022 and Cohort V 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 IDHSP required a 2-page CV, a letter of recommendation, and written responses to the following prompts:

1. Briefly describe any experience, DH-specific or otherwise, that would qualify you to contribute to this learning community. (Maximum 375 words)
2. How would this program help you accomplish your professional and/or personal goals? (Maximum 375 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 IDHSP Coordinator. The IDHSP Coordinator collected and organized all application materials in an online folder shared with the Selection Committee.

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

- Conrad Pegues, Librarian and Assistant Professor, University of Tennessee – Martin, BBIP Scholar Program alum
- Seretha Williams, Professor of English and Women’s and Gender Studies, University of Augusta, BBIP Scholar Program alum
- Maryemma Graham, Distinguished Professor of English and Founding Director of the History of Black Writing, University of Kansas

IDHSP Activities

The IDHSP was designed primarily for higher education professionals and scholars as well as advanced graduate students. Twenty-nine stipends were available for IDHSP participants across the two cohorts. The \$1,100 stipend was paid in two installments: the first \$550 after attendance and participation in the introductory meeting, and the second \$550 after completion of the program requirements at the end of the program’s 12 months.

IDHSP participants were provided access to HBW’s Novel Corpus via the University of Chicago Textual Optics Lab’s user platform PhiloLogic.

IDHSP participants were required to:

- Attend regular webinars with leading DH scholars and/or practitioners. Webinars were recorded, captions were added and edited for accessibility, and the resources were made available to the IDHSP cohort and the public on the BBIP website as well as HBW's YouTube channel.
- Review BBIP's library of recorded webinars from previous scholar programs <https://iopn.library.illinois.edu/omeka/s/BBIP/page/webinars>.
- Meet virtually with their IDHSP advisors. The Team paired participants with scholars who could provide insight and expertise specific to the participants' DH projects. One meeting was required.
- Workshop their projects-in-progress with the cohort.
- Join regular online cohort meetings to pose questions as well as share, assess, and motivate their projects-in-progress.
- Submit written critical reflections to assess what they did during the program, what they learned, and their planned next steps for their DH projects. [See Appendix B for Critical Reflection Instructions.]

IDHSP sessions (meetings, workshops, and webinars) were held virtually via Zoom. They were scheduled to occur monthly at the same day and time for the program's duration so that participants could plan their attendance well in advance. Each monthly 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 IDHSP 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.

IDHSP project workshops proved helpful for project development. With 15 cohort members in 2023, the program planned three workshops to discuss the work of five participants each. For a 90-minute workshop session, each scholar had 15 minutes to briefly present on their project-in-progress. The session also allotted time for presenters to pose specific questions to the larger group and the Cohort Consultant. The time also allowed fellow cohort members to ask the presenter clarifying questions, offer suggestions, and/or express encouragement for the project.

The IDHSP Coordinator communicated regularly via email with the cohort members, reminding them of upcoming sessions and providing follow-up afterward. The IDHSP Coordinator also hosted the cohort sessions on Zoom to answer any program logistics questions. Additionally, the IDHSP Cohort Consultant, Amy Earhart, attended all monthly cohort sessions to provide technical and DH expertise as well as lead discussions.

Additional (not required) opportunities for program participants included:

- attend and/or present their works-in-progress at 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.
- participate in virtual and/or in-person workshops. [See Appendix C for workshop information.]
- present as part of a BBIP panel at the 2024 College Language Association (CLA) Convention
- 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

General Program Timeline

November and January – Program promotion and solicitation of applicants

February – Application review and selection

March – Welcome and introduction to HBW, BBIP, and the IDHSP meeting

April – Webinar #1

May – Workshop #1

June – Workshop #2

July – Workshop #3

August – Webinar #2

September – Webinar #3

October – BBIP Mini-Conference

November and February – No sessions to allow time for project work and advisor meetings

March – Closing meeting

April – Critical reflections due

IDHSP Advisors

IDHSP advisors were selected based on the scholarly interests they shared with their advisees and the expertise they would bring to the projects. Some advisors had DH expertise while others were subject matter experts. Project funding paid each advisor \$250 for one meeting with their respective advisee; these were typically held over Zoom. Some advisors worked with multiple advisees.

- Alexandrina Agloro, Arizona State University
- Giselle Anatol, University of Kansas
- Moya Bailey, Northwestern University
- Paul Barrett, University of Guelph
- Christina Boyles, Michigan State University
- Amy Earhart, Texas A&M University

- Schuyler Espirit, Create Caribbean Research Institute
- Heather Froehlich, University of Arizona
- Maryemma Graham, University of Kansas
- Jason Helms, Texas Christian University
- Glen Layne-Worthey, University of Illinois
- Irma McClaurin, Independent Scholar
- Jamila Moore Pewu, California State University, Fullerton
- Howard Rambsy, University of Illinois – Edwardsville
- Amanda Regan, Clemson University
- Sheila Smith McKoy, Independent Scholar
- Tyechia Thompson, Virginia Tech University
- Erin Wolfe, University of Kansas
- Jewon Woo, Lorain County Community College, Ohio
- James Yékú, University of Kansas

Project Outcomes

IDHSP Participants

Twenty-seven scholars were admitted to the IDHSP and completed all program requirements:

2022 Cohort

- Lavonda Broadnax, Library of Congress
- Robin Brooks, University of Pittsburgh
- Maggie Brown Peoples, University of Kansas
- Jina DuVernay, Clark Atlanta University
- Michelle Gibbs, Illinois Wesleyan University
- Kevin Hales, Independent Scholar
- Seth Horton, University of Virginia
- Nicole Jenkins, Howard University
- Kevin Lucas, Augusta University
- Katelyn Shirley, University of Kansas
- Sidra Smith, Peabody College of Vanderbilt
- Ayana Weekley, Grand Valley State University

2023 Cohort

- Abisola Akinsiku, University of Kansas
- Austin Anderson, Howard University

- Sabrina Bramwell, Howard University
- Jalylah Burrell, Loyola Marymount University
- Bryon Garner, Union Institute & University
- Karima Jeffery-Legette, Hampton University
- Jerrica Jordan, Tarrant County College
- Kyr Mack, Howard University
- Alexandra Omogbadegun, University of Maryland
- Portia Owusu, Texas A&M University
- Bria Paige, Rutgers University
- Delana Price, University of Kansas
- Griselda Thomas, Kennesaw State University
- Glen Waters, University of Iowa Writers' Workshop
- Marlas Yvonne Whitley, New York University

Potential DH Projects

As part of their written critical reflections submitted at the conclusion of the IDHSP, participants provided brief overviews of their DH projects-in-progress. Undoubtedly, these projects and many more will come to fruition in the years to come. The shared DH projects-in-progress plan to:

- Create a resource focused on Frances Harper's poem about the United States Colored Troops (USCTs) at the Battle of Ft. Wagner, SC
- Develop a classroom assignment for students to learn and utilize a digital storytelling platform to narrate a historical person's story
- Refine an annual research article competition as part of a PhD program in Africana Studies
- Expand a graduate thesis to explore the importance of Black women artists and how their mediums reflect their lived experiences
- Explore and document the works of Black women mystery writers
- Create a digital database to explore several of Zora Neale Hurston's theatrical, anthropological, and ethnographic works
- Investigate African American literary works that engage with the Southwestern United States, focusing on themes of place, identity, and spectrality
- Build a database that examines and compares African American rural life in the Lowcountry South, particularly among the Gullah and Geechee communities in South Carolina and Georgia
- Create a database of narratives focusing on the cultural and social significance of natural hair among Black women
- Develop a classroom activity utilizing close reading and sentiment analysis programs to analyze railroad-related passages from lesser-read Black texts

- Investigate the contributions of female African writers and connect contemporary authors with their predecessors from newly independent African nations
- Create data visualizations to explore literary representations of play by authors like Toni Morrison and Octavia Butler
- Develop a digital archival space for Caribbean oral histories
- Build a virtual exhibit on Black women playwrights
- Utilize digital tools to present a counter-narrative to the traditional views of veteran identity and patriotism in America, specifically focusing on the experiences of Black veterans
- Enhance an existing digital site on Black speculative fiction with DH tools
- Create a digital exhibit on the 1927 Race Riot in Little Rock, Arkansas that highlights the contrasting perspectives in Black and white newspaper coverage
- Build a Scalar exhibition of a photo essay on protest photography and connecting these captured moments to the larger canon of the African American Expressive Tradition
- Develop an interactive network graph to explore the connections between Black women poets in Mississippi from 1950 to 1975, centering on Margaret Walker
- Create a digital interactive map focused on Appalachian queer narratives
- Build a dataset tracking the lynching of Black women, their reporting in newspapers, and their memorialization
- Expand an existing digital project which uses Blues and Jazz poetry to track the Great Migration
- Develop a digital archive of resident experiences in gentrified neighborhoods, capturing local history and personal narratives

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 build community. [See Appendix D for the Mini-Conference schedules.]

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.

Six webinars were recorded and shared with the IDHSP participants as well as the public:

- “Digital Humanities: Introductory Concepts and Examples,” by Brian Rosenblum, Co-Director, Institute for Digital Research in the Humanities and Digital Humanities

Librarian, University of Kansas

https://youtu.be/HbPH_GXVGU4?si=3LQ7WQampScklost

- “Introduction to Text Analysis and Name Entity Recognition with the HBW Corpus,” by Kaylen Dwyer, Digital Media Specialist, Tufts University
<https://youtu.be/dWx5GfcBLx8?si=FFDYyVBelbMbJdfy>
- “Introduction to Metadata and Dataset Creation,” by Erin Wolfe, Digital Initiatives Librarian, University of Kansas
<https://youtu.be/neE8m58snNQ?si=Wo1Ru27PQemWqzn1>
- “Things to Consider When Launching a DH Project,” by Amy Earhart, Associate Professor of English and Affiliated Faculty of African Studies, Texas A&M University,
https://youtu.be/QWfXl8ty0Wo?si=_vFiCTGeC8HHRf_8
- “Latina/o/x Digital Archives: The Communal and Transgenerational Process of Cultural Archiving,” by Carolina Villarroel, University of Houston, Co-Director, US Latino Digital Humanities Center
<https://youtu.be/GudvIHkrQQw?si=p6HLJ5d9Tj3GmxWo>
- “Preserving + Sustaining Digital Humanities Projects,” by Sarah Potvin, Associate Professor of English, Texas A&M University
https://youtu.be/NeJEQ82XU5E?si=RjF2sOrj7KJ_i5_7

IDHSP CLA Panel

HBW organized an IDHSP panel titled “Confronting the Digital Divide: Narratives from the Black Book Interactive Project” for the 2024 College Language Association (CLA) Annual Convention in Memphis, TN.

- Chair, Maryemma Graham, University of Kansas
- Austin Anderson, Howard University, “Black Ludology: Theorizing Play in Black Literature”
- Griselda Thomas, Kennesaw State University, “Literary Recovery, Recognition, and Mapping of the Lynching of Black Women in America”
- Karima Jeffrey-Legette, Hampton University, “Developing Web-Content as Part of My DH Initiative on Black Women/Girls in Speculative Fiction”
- Jalylah Burrell, Loyola Marymount University, “Lossless Digital Recordings; Intricate Patterns in Black Women’s Playwrighting”

Training and Professionalization Opportunities for Students

Work on the IDHSP provided the opportunity for DH training, professionalization, leadership, team building, outreach, public speaking, and technical skills for grad student Coordinator Meleah Perez. Perez also contributed to the writing of this white paper.

Project Evaluation, Impact, and Continuation

Evaluation and Impact

The IDHSP was evaluated both by the Team's observation of the participants' engagement and progress in the program as well as participants' responses shared in their critical reflection essays.

All 12 participants in the 2022 cohort completed the program (100% completion rate), and 15 of 17 participants in the 2023 cohort completed the program (88% completion rate), with one member of the cohort withdrawing only at the very end due to end-of-semester professional obligations.

Pairing the IDHSP participants with a more senior scholar with DH experience and/or expertise in their project's subject matter helped advisees advance their projects. The pairing also served to expand the participants' professional networks.

The six new recorded webinars added to BBIP's existing recording library provide a foundation of introductory DH knowledge for students, scholars, and members of the public who may be interested in this work. The webinars were offered synchronously for the cohort, but the recordings were edited to increase accessibility before they were posted on HBW's BBIP website and YouTube channel. These recordings will continue to be a resource for BBIP Scholars as well as a broad public in the future.

The BBIP Scholars Program panel on April 12 at the 2024 College Language Association convention provided a professional opportunity for the four participating IDHSP scholars to share their work with the wider Black literary studies scholarly community and receive important feedback.

The annual virtual BBIP Mini-Conferences brought together current and previous cohorts of BBIP Scholars as well as their advisors. The gatherings functioned to foster community among the cohorts and expand the IDHSP participants' professional networks.

Project Continuation and Long-Term Impact

Having facilitated six cohorts of BBIP Scholars Programs to date, including both the IDHSP and the concurrent Digital Publishing Scholars Program, as well as multiple NEH Summer Institutes (both in-person and virtual), HBW is confident about replicating and expanding this type of professional development model. 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 encouraging them to share calls for applicants with their professional networks. Additionally, HBW invites program alumni 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 and HBW. These ongoing relationships will continue well into the future.

The success of the IDHSP in 2019 and 2020 prompted HBW to launch the BBIP Digital Publishing Scholars Program in 2022 and 2023, wherein participants completed an intensive training course on digital publishing platforms and advanced a research project in progress toward digital publication. Ultimately, the BBIP Digital Publishing Scholars Program goal was to support participants in publishing their peer-reviewed scholarly projects with AFRO PWW 2, an imprint of the Illinois Open Publishing Network (IOPN) <https://iopn.library.illinois.edu/>, a set of digital publishing initiatives hosted and coordinated at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Library. Eight of the 28 accepted applicants for this advanced program were IDHSP alums.

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 we 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.



(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 ■ BLACK WRITING

Mellon
Foundation

AFRO
PWW₂

B: IDHSP Critical Reflection Assignment

Instructions: To receive the last installment of your stipend, you must submit a Critical Reflection. We do not expect your projects to be completed but rather nearing publication. However, we still need a measure for the impact of the program, so this is where the Critical Reflection comes in. Reflections should be double-spaced, 2-3 pages long, and sent to the IDH Coordinator as a Doc or PDF attachment. The subject line should be "Last Name, First Name-Critical Reflection." Any reflections sent in the body of an email will NOT be accepted, and you will be required to resend your reflection as an attachment. Your critical reflection should be a summary of:

- what you did (Ex: Reflecting back on what you've accomplished so far, what aspects of your project do you feel are particularly promising or impactful? How have you incorporated feedback or input from peers and/or advisors on your project? How have your methodologies or approaches contributed to the overall direction of your project? What steps did you take outside of our meetings? What steps did you take due to our meetings? Where did your project start and at what stage is it at now? What shifts or adjustments did your project undergo? Etc.);
- what you learned (Ex: What were some of the most significant concepts or techniques you learned during the program? Can you identify any specific skills or tools you've acquired in the program, if any, that you didn't have before? How do you envision incorporating the knowledge and skills gained from this program into your future academic and/or professional endeavors? Looking back, what advice would you give to someone who is just starting their journey in the digital humanities? Etc.);
- your anticipated next steps (Ex: What specific milestones or goals do you aim to achieve to progress towards publishing your project? Are there any particular challenges or obstacles that you anticipate encountering as you continue working on your project, and how do you plan to address them? Based on your experience in the program, what areas of the digital humanities are you most interested in exploring further? What resources or support do you feel you need to continue your journey in DH? What steps will you take to build upon the knowledge you have now? Etc.)

C: 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 Dubnicek, HathiTrust Research Center, and Janet Swatscheno, HathiTrust Research Center
- In-Person – co-hosted by HBW and the HathiTrust Research Center as part of the CLA Convention, Memphis, TN
- Audience – current and former BBIP Scholars and other CLA Convention attendees
- 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

D: 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	

a. 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