

NATHAN KELBER

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DIGITAL HUMANITIES FELLOW

Higher education project manager, educator, and programmer with experience working in universities, libraries, museums, and other non-profits. Currently Digital Humanities Fellow at JSTOR Labs working on social justice, environmental history, and data science.

Digital Projects ▪ Team Management ▪ Community Building ▪ Data Science
Grant and Policy Writing ▪ Software and Web Development ▪ Technical Training

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Digital Humanities Fellow, JSTOR Labs | Ann Arbor, MI

2019-present

Created teaching materials and taught workshops and webinars related to digitization and metadata production, text and data mining, and linked open data. Collaborated with Dumbarton Oaks research institute to pilot new models for the Plant Humanities Initiative funded by the Mellon Foundation.

Digital Scholarship Specialist, University of North Carolina | Chapel Hill, NC

2018-2019

Worked directly with UNC researchers, providing technical consultation and support for digital scholarship projects. I also built community by developing relationships with regional and campus units to support digital scholarship. Project proposals funded by NEH, Mellon, and CLIR.

Manager of Digital Projects, Detroit Historical Society | Detroit, MI

2014-2018

Supervised digital projects including the Detroit Video History Archive, The Detroit 67 Oral History Archive, and Re-Documenting Detroit. Directed a small team (2-5 people) of technicians to capture traditional and born-digital artifacts for public consumption and long-term archival storage. Managed grant projects and budgets from IMLS, NEH, Americana Foundation, and Knight Foundation.

Adjunct Professor, Lawrence Technological University | Southfield, MI

2012-2014

Taught courses in the digital humanities, world literature, composition, and rhetoric. Collaborated on educational course development grants from the Mellon Foundation and the American Association of Colleges and Universities.

Graduate Assistant, University of Maryland | College Park, MD

2008-2012

Taught courses in Shakespeare, composition, digital rhetoric, and electronic literature.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. University of Maryland

English with a concentration in Digital Humanities

M.A. Loyola University Chicago

English with a concentration in Textual Criticism

B.S. Eastern Michigan University

English and Mathematics (Michigan Secondary Education Certification BA/EX)

GRANT PROJECTS

Providing Offline Access to High-Quality Library Resources in Prisons (2018)

Collaborator, Mellon Foundation (\$600,000)

The Plant Humanities Initiative (2018)

Collaborator, Mellon Foundation (\$750,000)

On the Books: Jim Crow and Algorithms of Resistance (2018)

Co-Principal Investigator, Institute of Museum and Library Services (\$80,000)

UNC Fellowship in Data Curation for African American and African Studies (2018)

Writer/Editor, Council on Library and Information Resources (\$200,000)

Global Digital Humanities Workshops (2018)

Collaborator, American Institute of Pakistan Studies (\$75,000)

Digital Humanities Research Institute (2018)

Community Lead, National Endowment for the Humanities (\$250,000)

Online Collections Access Initiative (2017)

Consultant, Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation (\$25,000)

Re-Documenting Detroit (2015)

Collaborator, Knight Foundation (\$25,000)

Detroit's Video History Archive (2015)

Project Manager, Institute of Museum and Library Services (\$350,000)

DHS Digitization Project (2014)

Project Manager, Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan (\$30,000)

Preservation Assistance Grant (2014)

Project Manager, National Endowment for the Humanities (\$4000)

Furniture and Decorative Objects Conservation Initiative (2014)

Project Manager, Americana Foundation (\$10,000)

Library-Led DH Pedagogy: Modeling Paths Toward Information and Data Literacy (2014)

Collaborator, Association for Computers and the Humanities (\$1000)

Integrating Computational Science Research in the Humanities (2014)

Collaborator, American Association of Colleges and Universities (\$300,000)

Digital Liberal Arts in the Great Lakes Colleges Association (2014)

Consultant, Mellon Foundation (\$2.5 million)

PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCES AND INVITED TALKS

Mid-Michigan Digital Practitioners, State Library of Michigan | November 1, 2019

The Plant Humanities Tool: A First Look

Triangle Digital Humanities Institute, North Carolina Central University | October 25, 2019

On the Books: Jim Crow and Algorithms of Resistance

Lyrasis, B1G Ten Conference Center | October 4, 2019

Collections as Data

Network Detroit, Wayne State University | October 10, 2019

On the Books: Jim Crow and Algorithms of Resistance

Invited Talk, Center for the Study of the American South | May 14, 2019

Nurturing Generative Collaboration

Midwest Archives Conference, Detroit | April 5, 2019

On the Books: Jim Crow and Algorithms of Resistance

Coalition for Networked Information, St. Louis | April 9, 2019

Part to Whole Kickoff: Redefining Roles and Services to Support Collections as Data

Invited Talk, University of Michigan | February 25, 2019

Digital Scholarship for Social Good Series

Invited Talk, Code for Durham | January 22, 2019

Connecting People, Resources, and Training for Digital Projects

Invited Talk, Duke | January 10, 2019

Digital Project Agreements and MOUs

Invited Talk, National Humanities Center | October 2, 2018

Project Management and DH

Network Detroit, Wayne State University | September 21, 2018

Practical Advice for Grad Students: Lessons from Network Detroit and Detroit '67

Invited Talk, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill | September 19, 2018

The Public Turn: Getting Started with Public DH in the Triangle

Guest Lecture, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill | April 9, 2018

Theater Games: Playing with Shakespeare in the Past

Invited Talk, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill | March 23, 2018

The Role of the Library in Graduate Education for the Humanities

Invited Talk, Duke | February 19, 2018

Digging Deeper at UNC Libraries

Guest Lecture, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill | February 14, 2018

What Does a Digital Humanist Do?

Invited Talk, University of Michigan | October 10, 2017

Depositing with HathiTrust: A Simple Overview

Invited Talk, Illinois Institute of Technology | September 12, 2017

Why Should an Institutional Repository Have a Role at an Academic Institution

Invited Talk, Michigan Collections Management Roundtable | September 8, 2017

Digital Projects and Platforms: Sharing Perspectives from Detroit 67

Invited Talk, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill | August 29, 2017

Designing Library Services to Cultivate Digital Scholarship

Invited Talk, Rochester Institute of Technology | June 28, 2017

The Importance of DH: Connecting our Scholars, Telling our Stories

Michigan Archival Association Conference, Traverse City, MI | June 15, 2017

Documenting Detroit and Recording Michigan Memories

International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI | May 12, 2017

Play Studies: Early English Drama, Ludi, and Games

Midwest Archives Conference, Omaha, NB | April 7th, 2017

Telling the Story of 1967–68 in the North: Documenting Social Protest in Chicago, Milwaukee and Detroit

Guest Lecture in Archaeology, Wayne State University | February 21, 2017

Media Archaeology and the 1967 Oral History Project

Guest Lecture in Archives and Libraries, Wayne State University | February 10, 2017

An introduction to Digital Video Capture

Public Humanities in New Media, Wayne State University | November 9, 2016

The Public Humanities and the Next Generation PhD

Mid-Michigan Digital Practitioners Meeting, Michigan State | October 14, 2016

Digital Detroit: Audio, Video, and the MSU Urban Studio

Guest Lecture in Medieval Studies, Eastern Michigan University | December 3, 2015

The Ludic Problem in Medieval Studies

BABEL Working Group, University of Toronto | October 10, 2015

The Game and Play of the Chesse: Medieval Games and Digital Media Archaeology

HASTAC, Michigan State University | May 28, 2015

Games are not a Medium: The Media Archaeology of Tetris, Dragon's Lair, and Space Time

Mid-Michigan Digital Practitioners Meeting, U of Michigan | March 27, 2015
Detroit Historical Society Video Archive

Meaningful Play, Michigan State University | October 16, 2014
Game History and Preservation: The Roles of Industry, Institutions, and Fans

Invited Talk for the Great Lakes Colleges Association, Ann Arbor | June 1, 2014
Digital Liberal Arts 101: Three Recommendations

Invited Talk, The Tangent Gallery in Detroit | May 15, 2014
Literature and Games in the Digital Age

Research Day 2014, Lawrence Technological University | April 4, 2014
Digital Materialism: The Phenomenology of Software and Video Games

Shakespeare Association of America, Toronto | March 28, 2013
Medieval Drama, Ludi, and Games

Medieval Lunch Series, University of Michigan | February 6, 2013
The Play of Objects: Medieval Drama, Ludi, and Games

BABEL Working Group, Northeastern University | September 20, 2012
Wild Fermentation: Disciplined Knowledge and Drink

Invited Talk, Lawrence Technological University | April 17, 2012
What is the Digital Humanities?

Writing in Digital Environments, Eastern Michigan University | October 15, 2011
Building a Better Learning Management System

Digital Humanities 2011 (Invitation declined), Stanford | June 19, 2011
The Disintegration of the Persistence of Cultural Memory

Great Lakes THATCamp, Michigan State University | April 30, 2011
Introduction to Text Analysis

Renaissance Society of America, Montreal | March 24, 2011
Staging the Ludic: How Early Modern Play became Early Modern Work

Borderlines, University of Maryland | March 12, 2011
The Borders of Media: Don Bluth's Dragon's Lair

Reading Comparatively, University of Maryland | November 5, 2010
Replaying Shakespeare: Remediating Early Modern Drama

Shakespeare and Renaissance Ethics, Yale University | October 1, 2010
The Classical and Christian Ethics of Suicide in Shakespeare and Montaigne

Digital Humanities 2009, University of Maryland | June 23, 2009
The Prioress and the Jew: Mining the Symbolic System through Lexical Genre Analysis of Modernizations

Mediations, University of Maryland | February 27, 2008
From Archimedes to Robinson: The Rhetoric of the Infinitesimal

FELLOWSHIPS/SCHOLARSHIPS/AWARDS

IMLS National Medal for Detroit Historical Society's Detroit 67 (2018)

BABEL Travel Grant (2015)

Maryland Graduate Summer Fellowship (2013)

Maryland Teaching Assistantship (2008-2012)

Maryland ARHU Graduate Student Travel Award (2012)

Maryland QCB Travel Grant for MIT Research (2012)

SSHRC Digital Humanities Summer Institute Scholarship (2012)

CHNM Mellon Bootcamp Fellowship (2011)

Maryland Travel Grant (2011)

SSHRC Digital Humanities Summer Institute Scholarship (2009)

Maryland Travel Grant (2009)

Loyola University Chicago Fellowship (2006-2007)

Eastern Michigan University Honors Fellowship (2005)

CONFERENCE ORGANIZING

Conference Organizer (2019)

The Triangle Digital Humanities Institute

Conference Organizer (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017)

Network Detroit: Digital Humanities Theory and Practice

Moderator (2015)

HASTAC "Gameworlds, Objects, and Learning in the Material Turn" (2015)

Conference Organizer (2011)

Bloodwork: The Politics of the Body

Moderator (2010)

Nomenclature: "Archives: From Research to Scholarship"

Moderator (2006)

MMLA: "Filmic Adaptation"

COMMITTEES

Board Member of Digital Humanities Collaborative of North Carolina (2019)

ITHAKA

President of Triangle Digital Humanities Network (2018)

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Innovation Grant Committee (2018)

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Transforming Inquiry Through Digital Text Analysis (2018)

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Triangle Digital Humanities Network (2018)

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Duke, NC State, National Humanities Center

Digital Repository Taskforce (2013, 2014)

Lawrence Technological University

Technology Chair (2008, 2009, 2010, 2011)

Maryland Graduate English Organization

REVIEW SERVICE

National Leadership Grants for Libraries Panel (2019)

Institute of Museum and Library Services

Summer Visiting Research Fellowships (2019)

Summer Visiting Research Fellowships (UNC Wilson Library)

Conference Reviewer (2019)

Association for Computers and the Humanities

Grant Peer Reviewer (2017, 2019)

Institute of Museum and Library Services

Conference Reviewer (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2019, 2020)

Digital Humanities Conference

External Grant Reviewer (2018)

Wayne State Arts and Humanities Research Support Program

Grant Panelist Reviewer (2018)

National Endowment for the Humanities (ODH)

Conference Reviewer (2012)

Digital Humanities Summer Institute Colloquium Series

STUDENT MENTORING

Carolina Academic Library Associate (2018-20)

Claire Cahoon, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Carolina Academic Library Associate (2018)

Kristina Bush, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Urban Studio Internship (2016)

Domenika Tarazhi, Michigan State University

Urban Studio Internship (2016)

Katie Musial, Michigan State University

MLIS Practicum (2015)

Ryan Strobe MLIS, Wayne State University

MLIS Practicum (2015)

Rachel Schulz MLIS, Wayne State University

Technical Communication Practicum (2014)

VaNessa Thompson MSc, Lawrence Technological University

SELECTED MEDIA OUTLETS THAT FEATURED MY WORK

National media (PBS.org, CSPAN, Huffington Post)

Documentaries (12th and Clairmount)

Books (*Detroit 1967: Origins, Impacts, Legacies*)

Local media (American Black Journal, The Detroit News, Detroit Free Press, Detroit Metro Times, Clickondetroit.com, WXYZ.com, Detroit Public Television, Crain's Detroit Business, CW50 News, CBS Local Detroit, Mlive.com, Michigan Radio, WDET Radio, Michigan Chronicle, Hour Detroit, The Daily Tarheel)