

Writing Digital Humanities Research Questions¹

What topic are you interested in researching for the Digital Humanities Fellowship? Remember, the topic should address advocacy, social justice, or community engagement (defined as narrowly or broadly as you want), and/or use materials from Special Collections and College archives. Think about it not only in terms of humanistic inquiry (history, visual arts, performing arts, religion, philosophy, literature, language, anthropology) but also what sorts of digital methods and tools you will be using to help answer the question.

Once you have an idea of a topic, **start by discovering what your question might be.**

1. I am researching (state what your broad topic is):

2. In order to find out (think in terms of journalism – focus on **what, why, and how**):

3. To help us understand (why do we need to know this, why do we care, why is it interesting?):

4. Now, write it as a question, so take your components above and reframe it as a question that cannot be answered simply with yes or no (again, thinking in terms of journalism – focus on **what, why, and how**):

Next, consider what digital tools and methods will help you answer the question. You will probably not have a good understanding of what to use quite yet, but think about what you could use!

5. To answer this question, I will use digital tools and methods such as (a timeline, a map, a network, data visualizations) **in order to** (show, explain, demonstrate, compare/contrast):

¹ Adapted from Creating a Research Question - <https://libguides.sonoma.edu/c.php?g=401593&p=2731565>