



2026 DIGITAL SCHOLARSHIP RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS



The LLILAS Benson Digital Scholarship (LBDS) Research Fellowship program provides 3-5 stipends of up to \$2,250 for students and scholars to develop projects remotely with digital methods/ platforms ([examples](#)) based on LLILAS research foci and Benson collection strengths in Latin American, U.S. Latine, African Diaspora, or Indigenous Studies using data, born-digital sources (e.g. websites, social media posts), and/or the Benson's digitized holdings.

One award of \$3,000 will also be made to a proposal that uses the [AVAnnotate platform](#) to analyze and contextualize a substantive subset of Benson audiovisual collections (a minimum of 4 hours of collection materials). This award is as part of an [Initiative for Digital Humanities](#) Andrew W. Mellon Foundation-funded grant project that seeks to support the use of audiovisual materials in teaching, research, and public engagement, and the development of ethical practices and protocols for this type of cultural heritage. Please consult a list of qualifying collections for both competitions in the next page.

ELIGIBILITY: Applicants to the general LBDS fellowship must be graduate students or non-UT Austin scholars with a Bachelor's degree. Applicants to the AVAnnotate-LBDS joint fellowship may be graduate students, faculty, staff, and community scholars, regardless of institutional affiliation. Recipients of a LBDS Fellowship in the last 3 years (2022-2025) are not eligible to apply.

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS: The fellow must **dedicate three to four weeks of work between March 1 and August 21, 2026** to the proposed project, working closely with Digital Scholarship staff to develop a project that could entail the following:

- Development of an original digital project aimed at facilitating the exploration and analysis of data and/or Benson digital collection materials;
- Curation of data/text sets from Benson digitized holdings to analyze with [digital tools](#) (e.g. mapping, text mining, network analysis, TEI);
- Creation of open educational digital resources (e.g. exhibitions and lesson plans that incorporate digital scholarship praxis);
- Experimentation with social platforms to engage global scholarly networks in the collaborative description, analysis, and interpretation of digitized primary sources and data.
- For more examples, see [a list of previously awarded projects](#).

APPLICATION PROCEDURE: Proposals must be submitted **by FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2025** through this Qualtrics form: https://utexas.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_beJD3U82plOfuUm

You will be asked to provide the following information and application materials in the form:

- 1) Your full name, email, department/unit, university/organization, role/position, and research focus.
- 2) Brief descriptions of the following (max 1000 characters each answer):
 - a) Primary sources (e.g. data, websites, social media, digital Benson collections) you will be compiling, analyzing/annotating, and/or visualizing with digital methods/platforms.
 - b) Proposed project, expected outcomes, and tentative fellowship dates.
- 3) A three- to five-page (1250-2000-word), double-spaced project proposal that provides the following:
 - a) Project description;
 - b) Relevance to the applicant's research and field (no more than two pages/1,000 words);
 - c) Detailed outline of the proposed work and its engagement with [digital tools/platforms](#);
 - d) Specific primary sources that will be the focus of the digital scholarship project. **NOTE:** Projects are limited to data and/or existing Benson digital collections. Please see eligible digital collections in the following page. If there is a digital collection that you believe is under the custodianship of the Benson and missing from these lists, please email Albert A. Palacios (aapalacios@austin.utexas.edu) to confirm its eligibility;
 - e) Expected deliverables (e.g. datasets, open educational resources, workshop, data visualizations, annotations); and
 - f) Description of relevant technical skills the applicant has and support/expertise they will need for the project's success.
- 4) A curriculum vitae.

EVALUATION: Digital scholarship practitioners, faculty, and library staff will assess the proposal's scholarly merit, innovation, scope and feasibility, and its enhancement of Benson digital holdings. A competitive proposal would have addressed all elements listed above adequately. While the relevance of the proposed project to the applicant's research and field is critical, a proposal that primarily focuses on this element without giving the other elements due coverage (in particular the outline of proposed work) will be less competitive.

QUALIFYING COLLECTIONS

General LBDS Fellowship

Any Benson digital collection in these listed portals and those individually listed under the AVAnnotate-LBDS fellowship qualify:

- [UT Libraries Collections](#)
- [UT Libraries Exhibits](#)
- [Benson Data Repository](#)
- *[Latin American Digital Initiatives](#) (LADI)
- *[Human Rights Documentation Initiative](#) (HRDI)
- [Primeros Libros de las Americas Project](#)
- Benson books in [HathiTrust](#)
- [Archive-IT Web Archives](#)
- **[Archive of the Indigenous Languages of Latin America](#) (AILLA)
- [Digital Archive of the Guatemalan National Police Historical Archive](#)
- [Michoacán's Libros de Hijuelas, 1719-1929](#)
- [Latino Series, Independent Voices](#)
- [FromThePage collections](#)
- [Black Diaspora in New Spain Document Collection](#)
- [Collection of Colombian Manumission Documents](#)
- [Black Diaspora Archive Miscellaneous Manuscripts](#)

AVAnnotate-LBDS Fellowship

- [Shankleville Community Oral History Collection](#)
- [The John S. and Drucie R. Chase Building Archive](#)
- [Delta Xi AKA Oral History Collection](#)
- [Los del Valle Oral History Project Archive](#)
- [Mexican American Experience](#)
- [Latino USA](#)
- * [Jesús Tecú Osorio's Footage of Rabinal, Guatemala](#) (HRDI)
- * [Women's Caucus for Gender Justice's Footage for "If Hope Were Enough" Documentary](#) (HRDI)
- * [Radio Venceremos](#) (HRDI)
- * [Tejiendo la Memoria](#) (HRDI)
- * ["Rethinking Power and Resistance: Gender and Human Rights from Texas to the Transnational Americas" Conference Footage](#) (HRDI)
- * [Free Burma Rangers collection](#) (HRDI)
- * [Voces de Mujeres collection](#) (HRDI)
- * [Chammah and Young 1976 oral history on the Jewish Community in Syria](#) (HRDI)
- [Brittmarie Janson Pérez Collection on Panama recordings](#)
- [Américo Paredes recordings](#)
- [Ernesto Cardenal recordings](#)
- ["Archiving the Central American Revolutions" Micro Oral History Collection](#)
- **[Archive of the Indigenous Languages of Latin America](#) (AILLA)

POSTCUSTODIAL COLLECTIONS POLICY

* All projects proposing to use materials in the [Latin American Digital Initiatives](#) (LADI) or [Human Rights Documentation Initiative](#) (HRDI) portals will be reviewed and approved by postcustodial partners before an award can be made. Advance consultation with partners is **highly** encouraged. Please email Theresa Polk, Head of Digital Initiatives and Postcustodial Archivist (tpolk@austin.utexas.edu), to obtain contact information. Please note that a Spanish or Portuguese translation of the proposal will be requested for the partners' review.

** All projects proposing to use materials in the [Archive of the Indigenous Languages of Latin America](#) (AILLA) must consult with Dr. Susan Kung, AILLA manager (skung@austin.utexas.edu), to assess the viability of the proposal considering donor and community restrictions on the materials. The proposal must reflect evidence of this consultation. **Failure to do so will automatically disqualify the proposed project from the competition.**

AUDIOVISUAL COLLECTIONS POLICY

- While limited funding might be available to digitize, the fellowship is not intended to be a digitization grant for audiovisual materials at the Benson Latin American Collection. Proposals must principally focus on already digitized holdings.
- Deposit of audiovisual collection materials in other platforms is not permitted unless with expressed permission from the Benson Latin American Collection or its postcustodial partners.

FUNDS POLICY

- Final award amount will be determined by the application pool, proposed project scope, and available funds.
- The fellow must **dedicate at least three weeks and at most a month of work between March 1 and August 21, 2026** to the proposed project remotely.
- If the awardee is a **U.S. citizen**, they must submit the necessary financial/administrative paperwork **two months before** the fellowship period begins. Once submitted, the stipend will be issued as a direct deposit. The awardee must have a bank account number to receive the electronic payment.
- If the awardee is **not a U.S. citizen**, 30% of the stipend for taxes and a wire transfer fee will be deducted from the award. International awardees will have to submit the necessary financial/administrative paperwork **three months before** the fellowship period begins (**no earlier than May 1, 2026**) for the University to be able to issue the fellowship payment on time. Any associated administrative costs will be deducted from the awarded amount.

- Changes to the proposal after you have been awarded must be submitted to Albert A. Palacios in writing and formally approved.
- LLILAS Benson will not cover any project expenses (e.g. software subscriptions, training-related travel). However, fellowship stipends can be used to cover expected/unexpected project expenses.

DIGITAL SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT POLICY

LLILAS Benson Digital Scholarship (LBDS) Office staff can provide the following support:

- Recommend relevant, sustainable, and free [digital tools](#) and provide training on how to use them.
Note: LLILAS Benson cannot provide long-term project/website sustainability. LBDS staff are unable to provide design or website development services.
- Guide in the creation of data/text sets that will feed into these tools.
Note: LBDS staff will not compile data, clean-up datasets, nor develop in parts or complete the proposed digital project for fellows. It will be the fellow's responsibility to create the datasets needed for analysis, visualization, and presentation.
- Identify and recommend relevant digital scholarship literature on theory & practice.
- Provide guidance in determining the copyright status of digitized holdings for use in digital scholarship projects.
Note: LBDS staff cannot assume the responsibility for making sure that the publication of Benson digital holdings in projects do not infringe on copyright holders' or privacy rights. Fellows must obtain copyright-holder permissions prior to the start of the fellowship if they wish to publish collection materials under copyright.
- Submit audiovisual materials for automatic transcription.
Note: Fellows will be responsible for the correction of automated transcriptions to conduct subsequent analysis, annotation, and visualization.

REPORT & DIGITAL OUTPUTS POLICY

- Fellows must give a remote public presentation of the project at a specified date and time in late August 2026 **AND** submit a 1250-2000-word, double-spaced page report summarizing their research and findings to Albert A. Palacios within fifteen days after the conclusion of the fellowship. The presentation materials and report will be made publicly available through UT Libraries' open repository, Texas ScholarWorks (TSW).
- Fellow agrees to make data/text sets created for analysis, transcriptions, and translations of Benson materials, and other digital outputs that enhance the accessibility, contextual information, and general reuse of Benson holdings publicly available through open access UT Libraries repositories under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike (CC BY-NC-SA) license.