

Statements of Innovation and Significance

Significance

Explain - in terms comprehensible to a general audience
- the significance of your proposed project

Significance

How does your project:

contribute to a particular discipline or field?

contribute to the humanities more generally?

What is the impact of your research?

Significance Checks:

the “first time” (unless it really is and you can prove it)

innovative, exciting, NEW (unless you can prove it is)

a duplication of something someone has already done (just with new material)

Evaluation Criteria

The intellectual significance of the project for the humanities, including its potential to enhance research, teaching, and learning in the humanities.

Example

“Our workshop will provide humanities scholars with a deeper understanding of the vocabulary of LDA topic modeling (and other latent variable modeling methods) and best practices for interpreting the output of such analysis, and will articulate fundamental literary and historical questions for researchers outside of the humanities who are developing the models and methods (as well as the software implementations).”

What it Should have Been:

“Topic Modeling is a type of statistical analysis that allows you to discover concentrations of concepts that occur in a collection of documents. With topic modeling, we can discover potential themes and ideas in massive collections of materials to better understand what people wrote about in a given period or type of material. Our workshop will provide humanities scholars the opportunity to discuss and explore the models, methods, and software implementations of topic modeling.”

Innovation

creates something new

offering an interesting new approach to tackling a problem

technical innovation

makes use of an existing technology in a new way

it is the project collaboration that is innovative

address a longstanding humanities issue in a new way

Innovation

“True innovation is rare, and reasonable people can disagree as to what constitutes innovation. You therefore need to make a strong case for the innovative character of the proposed project.”

Example

“In traditional crowdsourced transcription applications, a user might spend ten minutes correcting an article, and the product of that labor would be a correct transcription of the article. In our application, the user could identify dozens or hundreds of difficult characters that appear in the articles from that same time period, and the system would use this new knowledge to improve OCR across the entire corpus. By focusing on the human engagement with the algorithm (rather than the text itself) and experimenting with various methods for incentivizing community engagement and dedication, we will potentially create new mechanisms to improve OCR.”

Objectives

What specific objectives or deliverables will this project offer?

e.g. amount of data used, number of pages created, quantity of pilots attempted

Itemize your objectives

Example

“The objective of this project is to learn what is unique about the style of individual artists, and to provide results at a much higher level of confidence than previously has been feasible. As such, we will:

design image analysis algorithms that will extract salient image features, group images based on similarity of these features, classify groups according to a priori knowledge, and optimize algorithmic steps and parameters;

apply the developed algorithms to the three collections of images; report accuracy and computational requirements over all of the image collections.”