The mission of the Digital Arts, Sciences, & Humanities (DASH) program is to support faculty and students who employ digital technologies in their research, teaching, and engagement work. With guidance from the DASH Faculty Advisory Committee, DASH has refashioned itself to become a curator of the University’s digital resources that matches scholars with technology experts across its campus-spanning network of partners. In addition to the hundreds of connections DASH made this year, other landmarks for the program included:

• Creating the Human in the Data MnDrive Fellowship to support the research of nine graduate students who are exploring the humanistic implication of data in robotics, food, the environment, the brain, and clinical cancer trials.
• Continuing to offer faculty and graduate students skill-building opportunities in research programming through Software Carpentry and Programming & Pizza.
• Expanding our set of partners to include the College of Design - Information Technology, College of Science & Engineering – Information Technology, Health Sciences Technology, and Humphrey School - Information Technology.

The global COVID-19 pandemic and the persistence of structural racism has weighed heavily on our community this academic year. As we embark on this next year, DASH remains committed to providing faculty and students access to the intellectual and infrastructural technology resources of the University and will strive more than ever to ensure that access is inclusive and equitable.

Benjamin Wiggins, Ph.D.
DASH Program Director and Affiliate Assistant Professor of History

Praise for DASH

“I have appreciated DASH’s efforts to translate information about digital technologies into language that I can understand so that I have the necessary information to make the best decisions for my research project.”
—Julie Santella, Ph.D. Student Geography, Society, & Environment

“This NEH grant was not just a vote of confidence in me, but in the whole DASH team.”
—Peter Mercer-Taylor, Professor, School of Music

69 students trained in R, Python, & Git by DASH Software Carpentry

98 departments utilized DASH for support

served 336 slices of pizza during Programming & Pizza

369 Connections Made Through DASH This Year
DASH Research Assistants, 2019-20

Yupei Liu
Computer science & statistics student; works with data processing, data visualization, & data analysis

Alyssa Miller
Graphic design student; works with web & graphic design, website building, & illustration

Chae Hong
Graphic design student specializing in UI design, illustration, web design/development, & brand design

Ben Schroeder
Computer science & graphic design student; works with front-end & back-end web development

Notable Projects

- Civic Shakespeare – Katherine Scheil, Professor of English
- An Enlightenment Print Phenomenon Unbound – J.B. Shank, Professor of History
- What is America? – Jacqueline Johnson, Professor of Sociology (Morris)

Check out dash.umn.edu/projects for more projects that would not have been possible without the efforts of staff at our partner organizations and the DASH research assistants.

Our Partners

DASH is an alliance of nine University of Minnesota units. Partners contribute to their time and expertise to the administration of DASH and provide direct consultations with students and faculty.

Center for Education Innovation • College of Design – Information Technology
College of Science & Engineering – Information Technology • Health Sciences Technology
Humphrey School of Public Affairs – Information Technology • Institute for Advanced Study
Liberal Arts Technology & Innovation Services • Research Computing • University Libraries

The Human in the Data MnDrive Fellows

Manami Bhattacharya – Health Policy & Management, School of Public Health – “Effects of Mental Illness on Outcomes among Older Women with Breast Cancer”

Yuming Fang – Hubbard School of Journalism & Mass Communication, College of Liberal Arts – “Empowered Social Bots: Bot-Created Anti-Vaccine Information on Twitter”

Johnathan Hardy – Department of Art History, College of Liberal Arts – “Ornithological Empire: Mapping the Qing Dynasty’s Compendium of Birds (鳥譜, niaopu) (1736 – 1795 CE)”

Milica Milic-Kolarevic – Department of Anthropology, College of Liberal Arts – “Law of Gift Gratitude: Serbian Oncology Practice”


Prerna – Department of Art, College of Liberal Arts
Hayden Teachout – Department of Art, College of Liberal Arts – “Aerial Eyes 1”


Rebecca Walker – Humphrey School of Public Affairs – “Critical Cartography for Urban Environmental Planning: Exploring the role of participatory mapping in the quest for environmentally just cities”

Most Popular Support Requests This Year

- Data
- Websites
- Design
- R
- Python
- Text mining
- Visualizations
- Network analysis
- APIs
- Machine vision

Notable Projects