Hannah Alpert-Abrams

Knoxville, TN
halperta@gmail.com | http://www.halperta.com

EDUCATION

PhD	Comparative Literature,	The University of Texas at Austin	August 2017
MA	Comparative Literature,	The University of Texas at Austin	May 2013
BA	English, *summa cum laude*,	Oberlin College	May 2007

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

8/2025-Present   Co-Founder, Sidra Collaborative

- Co-founded Sidra Collaborative, a consultancy that partners with arts, culture, and humanities organizations and funders to build sustainable programs and reimagine a funding landscape that centers transparency, equity, and community.
- Co-developed the mission, vision, and organizational structure.
- Collaboratively designed brand materials, website, and social media strategy.

11/2023 - 03/2025   Senior Program Officer, Office of Data and Evaluation, National Endowment for the Humanities

- Supervise a three-person program team with a $1.5M program budget.
- Through data collection and consultation with external stakeholders, set funding priorities relating to the state and impact of the humanities.
- Plan, coordinate, and implement the office's first data-grounded humanities programming, including a competitive grant program, contracts with external evaluators, and partnerships with humanities funders and scholarly organizations.
- Oversee development of an outreach plan to communicate about office activities and the state of the field through a website, newsletters, social media, and attendance at scholarly and professional conferences.

11/2022 - 11/2023   Program Officer, Office of Data and Evaluation, National Endowment for the Humanities

- Founding staff member of NEH's first new office in over ten years
- Developed an equity-driven strategic plan to establish a data-grounded approach to understanding the impact and value of the humanities
- Built internal dashboards to allow agency staff to understand the breadth, depth, and limitations of funding programs and peer review processes
- Oversaw peer review and implementation of a funded partnership to develop data on humanities programming across the United States

2019-2023   Program Specialist, Office of Digital Humanities, National Endowment for the Humanities
NEH Employee of the Year 2021

- Consulted with applicants, oversaw the application process, and worked with the grants office to make awards for digital humanities grant programs.
- Designed and implemented grant assessment and evaluation programs for the Office of Digital Humanities and Agency-Wide Programs.
- Planned and executed Project Directors' meetings and supported related agency events
- Temporary appointment to Program Officer, 2021 and 2022-23.

2018-2019   Postdoctoral Fellow in the History of the Book in the Americas
The John Carter Brown Library and the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Brown University

2017-2018   CLIR Postdoctoral Fellow in Data Curation and Latin American Studies

PUBLICATIONS

Edited Volumes and Special Issues

2020   Hannah Alpert-Abrams and Clayton McCarl, eds. "Digital Humanities and Colonial Latin American Studies." *Digital Humanities Quarterly 14.4. 2020.*

Peer-Reviewed Articles and Chapters

2023   "An Unexpected Influence: Photostats in Special Collections Libraries." *Papers of the Bibliographical Society of America.*

2023   Hannah Alpert-Abrams and Andi Gustavson. "Ethics of Teaching with Digital Primary Sources." In Andi Gustavson and Charlotte Nunes, eds. *Transforming the Authority of the Archive.* Lever Press.

2019   Hannah Alpert-Abrams, David Bliss, and Itza Carbajal. "Post-Custodial Archiving for the Collective Good." *Journal of Critical Library and Information Science* 2. March 3, 2019.

2019   Tamy Guberek, Velia Muralles, and Hannah Alpert-Abrams. "'Irreversible': The Role of Digitization to Repurpose State Records of Repression." *International Journal of Transitional Justice.* 25 January 2019.

2018   "Colonial Copying in an Imperial Age." Decolonial Computing Roundtable. *Catalyst: Feminism, Theory, Technoscience.* Vol. 4, No. 2.

2016   "Machine Reading the Primeros Libros." *Digital Humanities Quarterly* 10.4.

2016   "Representing the Long History of Early Modern Printed Objects: The Archaeology of a Book." *Scholarly Editing*, Vol. 37.

Peer-Reviewed Conference Proceedings

2017   Maria Ryskina, Taylor Berg-Kirkpatrick, Hannah Alpert-Abrams, and Dan Garrette. "Compositor Attribution in the First Folio of Shakespeare." In *Proc. of the Conference of the Association for Computational Linguistics*: Vancouver, British Columbia.

2016   Dan Garrette and Hannah Alpert-Abrams. "An Unsupervised Model of Orthographic Variation for Historical Document Transcription." In *Proc. of the Conference of the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics*: San Diego, California.

2015   Dan Garrette, Hannah Alpert-Abrams, Taylor Berg-Kirkpatrick, and Dan Klein. "Unsupervised Code-Switching for Multilingual Historical Document Transcription." In *Proc. of the Conference of the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics*: Denver, Colorado.

Digital Projects

2020-pres   *The Visionary Futures Collective.* Imagining a better future for higher education.

2017-pres   *Academic Job Market Support Network.* A Humanities Commons repository for job seekers in and beyond academia.

2017-2018   *Digital Portal to the Archivo Histórico de la Policía Nacional de Guatemala.* Managing the post-custodial partnership between the University of Texas and the AHPN.

2015-2017   *Reading the First Books.* Developing tools for the automatic transcription of early modern printed books. http://sites.utexas.edu/firstbooks

2016   *The Archaeology of a Book: An experimental approach to reading rare books in archival contexts.* http://scalar.usc.edu/works/advertencias/index

Book Reviews

2016   Hannah Alpert-Abrams and Matt Cohen. *Yearbook of English Studies, Volume 45: The History of the Book.* Edited by Sandro Jung and Stephen Colclough. *SHARP News.* http://bit.ly/2cRYMHq

2014   *Into the Archive: Writing and Power in Colonial Peru* by Kathryn Burns. *E3W Review of Books.*

Select Popular Publications

2025   "Taking Action in Higher Ed." *Shalperta Press.* August 2025.

2022	"Finding Your Purpose: a Higher Calling workbook for justice-oriented scholars in an unjust world." *Shalperta Press.* June 2022.
2022	Hannah Alpert-Abrams and Saronik Bosu. "Beyond Dark Academia." *Post45 Contemporaries.* April 2022.
2020	"What the Humanities Do in a Crisis." *Medium.* April 11, 2020.
2018	"Seminar Celebrates Collaboration with Guatemala on Human Rights Archives." *Tex Libris.*
2018	Alex Galarza and Hannah Alpert-Abrams. "Partnering on Digital Archives and Human Rights in Guatemala." *Re:Thinking.* https://goo.gl/jEvK5d
2017	Hannah Alpert-Abrams, Bryan Tarpley, and Maria Victoria Fernandez. "Reading the First Books White Paper." *NEH Annual Report.* https://goo.gl/Q8L29D
2017	Hannah Alpert-Abrams and Maria Victoria Fernandez. "Reading the First Books: Colonial Mexican Documents in the Digital Age." *Portal: Web Magazine of LLILAS Benson Latin American Studies and Collections.*

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Long Term Awards

2016	*University Graduate Continuing Fellowship.* University of Texas at Austin.
2015	*Digital Humanities Implementation Grant.* National Endowment for the Humanities. Project Director: Sergio Romero. Project Title: "Reading the First Books." $215,000. *Designed, proposed, and implemented two-year grant-funded digital humanities project.*

Select Short Term Awards

2018	*Collaborative Institutional Partner Fellowship.* John Carter Brown Library.
2016	*Helen Watson Buckner Fellowship.* John Carter Brown Library. Project title: "Acquisition of Mexicana at the John Carter Brown Library."
2016	*The BSA-Pine Tree Foundation Fellowship in Hispanic Bibliography.* Bibliographical Society of America. Project title: "Legacies of Colonial Mexican Printing: Taller Martín Pescador."
2016	*E.D. Farmer International Fellowship.* LLILAS Benson Latin American Studies and Collections.
2016	*University of Texas at Austin Graduate School Summer Fellowship.*
2014	*Tinker Field Research Grant.* Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies, University of Texas at Austin.
2014	*Oberlin Alumni Fellowship.* Oberlin College.

GRANT CONSULTANCIES

2018-2019	Co-author: "The Pedagogy of Digitization: Guatemalan Records of Human Rights and Historical Memory." *Clir Microgrant.*
2017-2019	Consultant: "Text in Situ: Reasoning about Visual Information in the Computational Analysis of Books." Carnegie Mellon University. Funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Principal Investigator: Taylor Berg-Kirkpatrick.
2017-2018	Participant: "Historical and Multilingual OCR Working Group." Northeastern University. Funded by the Mellon Foundation. Principal Investigators: Ryan Cordell and David Smith.

INVITED TALKS

June 2025	"Funding Digital Humanities." Keynote Moderator, *Association for Computers in the Humanities.* Virtual.
Mar 2020	"In Parentheses." Keynote Speaker, *Culture Mapping 2020: Futures.* New York, NY.
April 2019	"Multilingual Texts in the Digital Age." Transatlantic Visions Speaker Series. Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA.
March 2019	Digital Futures for the Humanities. University of Connecticut, Storrs, MA.
March 2019	"Critical Digital Archives: Digital technology and social justice in Latin American archives." *Digital*

and Computational Studies, Bates College, Maine.

Sept 2018 "Critical Digital Archives." Collected Academics Speakers Series. Arizona State University, Tempe.

May 2018 "Reading the First Books." William and Mary Quarterly-Early Modern Studies Institute. Los Angeles, CA.

Apr 2018 "Transcribing Multilingual and Historical Documents." Digital Jumpstart Workshops. The University of Kansas: Lawrence, Kansas.

Jan 2018 "The Perfect Copy: Photolithography, Photostats, and the Copying of Colonial History." The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

Nov 2017 "Transcribing Multilingual Documents in the Digital Age." University of Houston: Houston, TX.

Apr 2017 "Introduction to Automatic Transcription." Brown University Libraries: Providence, Rhode Island.

CONFERENCES

Select Papers Presented

Oct 2019 "Surrogate Return: Copying for the Collective Good." *University of Kansas Digital Humanities Forum*: Lawrence, KS.

July 2019 "Critical Digital Archives." *ACH*: Pittsburgh, PA.

July 2019 "Facsimile Return: On the Replicative Exchange of Colonial Documents" and "'Data Recovery' Roundtable."
Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing: Amherst, MA.

May 2019 "'An Unexpected Influence': Photostats, Libraries, and the Circulation of Documentary Heritage." Latin American Studies Association: Boston, MA.

July, 2018 "Enseñanza Colectiva con Archivos Digitales." *Archivos y Derechos Humanos: Experiencia de Colaboracion entre AHPN y La Universidad de Texas.*

Jun 2018 "Eternal Sunrise: Digital life cycles and long-term preservation for social justice archives." Digital Humanities 2018: Mexico City, MX.

Jun 2018 "Building Early Colonial Corpora for Digital Scholarship." Digital Humanities 2018. Mexico City, MX.

Sep 2017 *An Unexpected Influence: Photostat Machines in Colonial Libraries, 1895-1915.* Book History and Digital Humanities: Madison, Wisconsin.

Jan 2017 Panelist: *Acknowledging Boundary Conditions: Opening the Black Box of Creating Access to Digitized Collections.* Modern Language Association: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Sep 2016 *Esta ãphibologia no ay ẽ latin: Machine reading linguistic hybridity in the Primeros Libros.* 3er Encuentro de Humanidades Digitales: Ciudad de México, México.

Panels Organized

June 2025 (Keynote Presenter and Chair): "The Present and Future of Federal Funding." The Association for Computers in the Humanities: Virtual Conference.

May 2020 (Co-organizer and Chair): "Digital Approaches to Recovering Colonial-Era Cultural Heritage Material of Value to Specific Contemporary Communities"

May 2019 (Co-Organizer): "Designing ADRELA: The Alliance for Digital Research on Early Latin America." Latin American Studies Association: Boston, MA.

Jun 2018 (Co-Organizer): "Social Justice, Data Curation, and Latin American and Caribbean Studies." Digital Humanities 2018. Mexico City, MX.

Jun 2018 (Co-Organizer): "Digital Humanities and Colonial Latin American Studies." Digital Humanities 2018. Mexico City, MX.

Oct 2017 (Co-organizer): "Mediascapes of the Colonial Americas: The Digital Materialities of New World Inscription." Book History and Digital Humanities: Madison, Wisconsin.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Appointments

2023-2025 Lecturer, School of Information Science, University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

2020-2021	Instructor, English Language Learning Program, Centro Hispano.
2018-2019	Instructor, Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Brown University.
Fall 2018	Lecturer, Latin American Studies Program, University of Texas at Austin.
2015	Digital TA, LLILAS Benson Latin American Studies and Collections, University of Texas at Austin.
2013-2014	Instructor, Department of Rhetoric and Composition, University of Texas at Austin.
2013-2014	Writing Consultant, Undergraduate Writing Center, University of Texas at Austin.
2011-2013	Teaching Assistant, Department of English, University of Texas at Austin.

Graduate Courses Taught

Introduction to Digital Humanities (asynchronous)

Community-Centered Digital Humanities (Co-instructor with Dr. Joshua Ortiz Baco)

Critical Digital Archives (Co-instructor with Dr. Kelly McDonough)

Modern Central America: Digital Archives (Co-instructor with Dr. Virginia Garrard)

Undergraduate Courses Taught

History of the Book in the Americas (Co-instructor)

The Rhetoric of Science Writing (Instructor)

Rhetoric and Composition (Instructor)

Masterworks of English and American Literature (Teaching Assistant)

Other courses taught

English Language Learning levels 1-3. (Co-instructor)

Guest Lectures

April 2020	Digital Archives and Special Collections. *Reading Literature: Mad Scientists and Haunted Libraries.* Department of English, Virginia Commonwealth University. Richmond, VA.
Apr 2019	Digital Archives. *Digital Storytelling.* Center for Public Humanities, Brown University. Providence, Rhode Island.
2017, 2019	Automatic Transcription. *English 381.01: Gutenberg to Google Books.* Stevenson University English Department. Stevenson, Maryland.
Apr 2018	Facsimile Reproduction. *Reading Books in the Digital Age.* University of Texas English Department. Austin, Texas.

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

Manuscript and Proposal Review

2019	Digital Scholarship in the Humanities.
2018	National Endowment for the Humanities Office of Digital Humanities.
2018	Journal of Critical Library and Information Science.
2018	PMLA.
2018	Digital Humanities Quarterly.

Scholarly Society Service

2019-pres	Co-Director: Association for Digital Research on Early Latin America
2018-2020	Member: Digital Library Federation Primary Sources Subgroup.
2018-2020	Founding Member: Postdoctoral Laborers.

Campus Service

2018-2019	Moderator: Book History Working Group. Brown University.
2017-2018	Moderator: Archives and Social Justice Reading Group. University of Texas at Austin.
2017-2018	Member: Search Committee, CLIR Postdoctoral fellow. LLILAS Benson Latin American Studies and Collections, University of Texas at Austin.

2014–2017	Creator: *Comparative Literature Digital Repository*.
2014	Section Editor: "Digital Communities". *E3W Review of Books*.
Jan 2016	Organizing Committee: "THATCamp: Digital Pedagogy." Austin, Texas.
Fall 2013	Co-Organizer: "What We Read: Materiality, Narrative, Text." GRACLS Conference: Austin, Texas.

Extracurricular Institutional Service

2014–2015	Blog Co-Editor. *Pterodáctilo: revista de arte, literatura, lingüistica y cultura*.
Fall 2014	Blog Editor. *Praxis: a Writing Center Journal*.
2012-2013	Fiction Co-Editor. *Bat City Review*.

Additional Training and Workshops

Jun 2018	Digital Humanities Summer Inst.: "Race, Social Justice, and DH: Applied Theories and Methods."
Oct 2017	Fedora Camp Texas. University of Texas Libraries.
Jul 2017	Summer Seminar in the History of the Book in American Culture: "Other Languages, Other America," at the American Antiquarian Society.
May 2015	Graduate Student Symposium of the Cultural Analytics Conference at the University of Chicago.
Aug 2013	California Rare Books School: History of the Book in Hispanic America.

Languages

English	Native
Spanish	Reading: Superior, Speaking: Conversational
French	Reading: Intermediate
Colonial Nahuatl	Reading: Beginner