Introduction to the DH Center

Who is this intro primarily for?

- DH Certificate students (prospective and enrolled)
- DH Certificate faculty
- Other interested UVA faculty, staff, and DH practitioners

What does the DH Center do?

Established in 2023, the UVA Library's DH Center (DHC) brings together UVA's eminent practitioners in digital humanities (DH), the Institute for Advanced Technology in the Humanities (IATH) and the Scholars' Lab — for a total of 16 full-time experts with a richly interdisciplinary repertoire. Through our fellowship programs, consultations, workshops and colloquia, we support students, faculty, and staff of the University as well as the larger community, regardless of status, field, or subject area, to pursue their digital and experimental research and pedagogical projects.

What is Scholars' Lab?

The Scholars' Lab is an interdisciplinary research lab for digital scholars and students, providing mentoring, consulting, and collaboration -- a hub for critical, creative, and just explorations of the intersections of technology and culture. In addition to our student fellowships and events, our staff offer deep expertise in digital humanities, computer and information science, spatial technologies, maker, and cultural heritage approaches. Scholars' Lab.offers expertise in the critical digital humanities (DH). Much of the Lab's work draws on our strong DH background (including for non-DH projects and people!) and many of our staff identify as digital humanists. We use "critical" DH here to mean purposeful engagements with the field of DH, including its writings, theory, and network of scholars.

Our four areas of high-level expertise (code + design, spatial technologies, makerspace, DH pedagogy) all routinely overlap with critical DH work, including through consultation, collaboration, teaching, staff-initiated research, and staff leadership and service in external disciplinary and methodological fields. Beyond these, "critical DH" captures our high level of engagement in external, international DH leadership, service, and community.

What is IATH?

Institute for Advanced Technology in the Humanities (IATH) centers on faculty-driven digital scholarship projects. IATH's Resident Fellowship program has been the heart of IATH since its founding in 1993, enabling us to support and guide selected Fellows in collaborative design and development of scholarly research projects of many kinds that draw upon advanced digital technology. We collaborate with scholars both inside and outside UVA to develop ambitious and long-term digital scholarship based in humanities disciplines. This may include traditional

humanities faculty as well as interdisciplinary scholarship from the sciences and social sciences.

What kinds of technical expertise do they offer?

- Critical & ethical approaches to technology & digital design
- GIS, mapping, & spatial technologies
- Research coding, web design, data analysis
- Digital research project design & project management advising
- Cultural heritage informatics
- Virtual & augmented reality
- Digital pedagogy (e.g. syllabus development)
- Critical humanities makerspace research & teaching
- Experience collaborating on digital humanities projects (when available)
- Professional development support for digital scholarship careers

Is it okay for grad students to ask for help with research? How much help is reasonable to expect?

Scholars' Lab: It's more than okay—it's a core service that Scholars' Lab provides as part of our research consultation & teaching for everyone at UVA. We don't build things for people, but rather, we focus on helping you develop as a practitioner in your own right. We can offer research advice; share model projects, readings, and useful tools; help you get started learning a method or advance existing skills. We can help with professional development as well, e.g. discussing career options, reviewing CVs, offering mock interviews for specific DH job types. We're active in international scholarly leadership, service, and social media, and can help you think about becoming more involved with these ways to find community, collaborators, and opportunities.

We tend to schedule consultations 2-3 weeks out, though do our best to meet sooner when urgent or otherwise possible; this depends on which and what number of staff are needed to assist given your topic (e.g. if you need both mapping and general research project design support). We get many requests near the end of term (post-Thanksgiving, for fall term) so do contact us before then if your request involves a final project or lesson for a current class.

We also offer an ongoing workshops series and a variety of speaker events each semester. This schedule is available on our website, and if you see something you are interested in but unable to attend, let us know. We often have handouts available from past workshops, or we offer individual consultations to get you started. And, please don't hesitate to email with Laura Miller at lam2c@virginia.edu with workshop requests or speaker suggestions.

How do I get in touch? Should I email them or walk in?

Scholars' Lab: The best way to get in touch is to email ScholarsLab@Virginia.edu; this gets you to the right staff without you needing to know who that is. While we have "core hours" when most of our staff work from the lab during academic terms Tuesdays and Thursdays 10am-2pm, because relevant staff may be unavailable (in meetings, teaching, helping someone else) we strongly encourage emailing to schedule a time to meet. We're each experts in different areas, and this helps us make sure the person you need is available to help you. We offer virtual and in-person consultations to all, and with advance requests from faculty, we might be available for collaborative co-teaching or course integrations.

What is Praxis? Should I apply to that now too?

The [Praxis Program Fellowship](#) is the Scholars' Lab's flagship, year-long introduction to digital humanities for PhD Students. The project-based fellowship carries a $10,000 award and introduces students to DH community, pedagogy, research infrastructure, and humanities programming and design in a supportive environment. The program is open to all doctoral students at UVA. The DH Certificate and Praxis complement and do not replace one another—each can deepen a student's preparation for a broad range of digital humanities careers. In particular, Praxis offers a hands-on deep dive into the digital library community at UVA where students build the technical and critical skills to prepare for careers in this space. Write to Brandon Walsh at bmw9t@virginia.edu for more information and consider applying. **Applications for the 2026-27 cohort are due November 1, 2025.**

Are there any internship or work opportunities in the DH Center?

Scholars' Lab hires for some funded work opportunities. Our ["For Students" page](#) offers an overview of opportunities that are periodically available; currently, Makerspace Technicians, a VR Intern, Praxis Fellows, and a DH Fellow are available annually or semi-annually, along with periodic roles assisting with specific projects.

IATH does not offer student internships, as of right now. However, students who are interested in specific IATH research projects should contact the project's faculty director to discuss possible opportunities.

However, the DH Center often fields requests from UVA faculty or other centers looking to hire students who either have technical skills or would like to learn them on the job. If you are interested in such a position, feel free to let us know at ScholarsLab@Virginia.edu, and we will do our best to make referrals as openings become available.