

Everything, All at Once, Yesterday

Creating Research Software with
Humanities Faculty



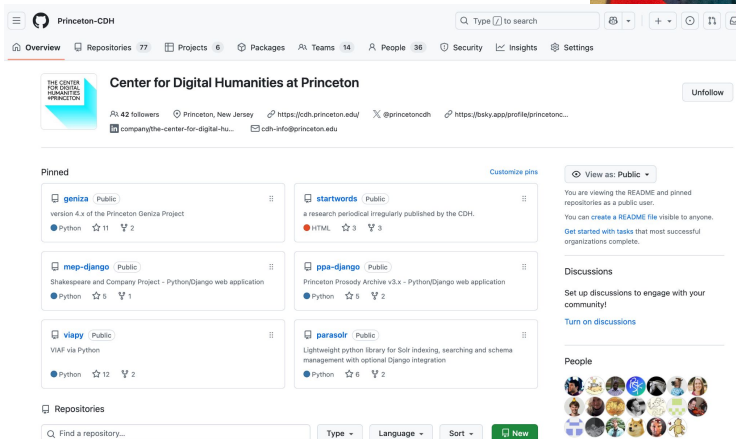
THE CENTER
FOR DIGITAL
HUMANITIES
@PRINCETON


Jeri E. Wieringa, PhD
Mary K. Naydan, PhD



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Research Software Engineering at the Center for Digital Humanities @ Princeton



The image depicts a theater stage. At the top, red curtains with a gold-colored scalloped edge are partially drawn. The background is a deep red with vertical pleats. In the foreground, the tops of several rows of red theater seats are visible. Centered on the stage is the text "First, a skit to set the stage..." in a white, serif font.

First, a skit to
set the stage...



APPLAUSE

What is going on here?

<https://www.menti.com>

Code: 1599 5744



What is going on here?

- They don't have a clear research question
- They want a lot of disparate things (with no sense of effort or complexity)
- The audience for the project is vast and undefined
- The source base is complicated and not ready for analysis
- They are not inclined to engage in the process

So what do we do?



What does a successful collaboration look like?

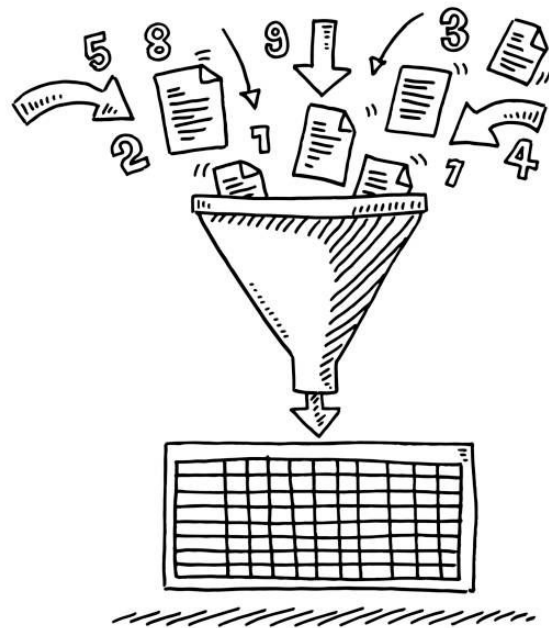
- A clear deliverable (dataset, software, research infrastructure) that supports a humanities scholarly output (journal article, book).
- Increase in Princeton humanities scholars using and invested in digital methods.
- Opportunity for the RSE team to make a contribution to the field of Digital Humanities (method, tool, critique).
- Co-ownership model for a more resilient collaboration.



How do we get there?

Faculty Training

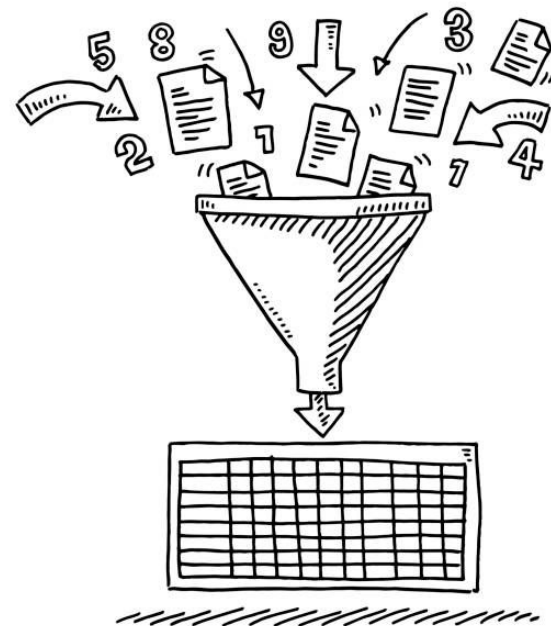
“Thinking with Data” Workshop



Faculty Training

“Thinking with Data” Workshop

- critical data literacy



Faculty Training

“Thinking with Data” Workshop

- critical data literacy
- computational thinking



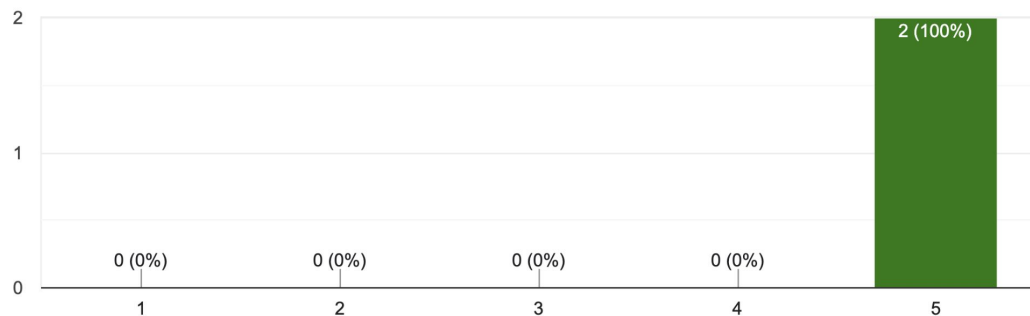
Faculty Training

“Thinking with Data” Workshop

- critical data literacy
- computational thinking

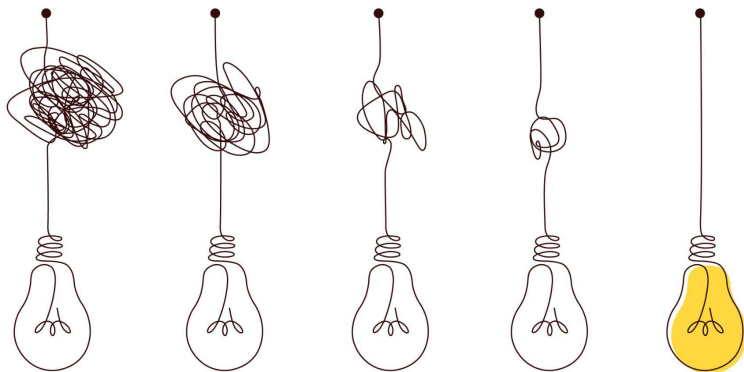
After attending today's workshop, I have a better understanding of what it means to work with humanities materials as data.

2 responses



Faculty Training

“Project Design” Workshop



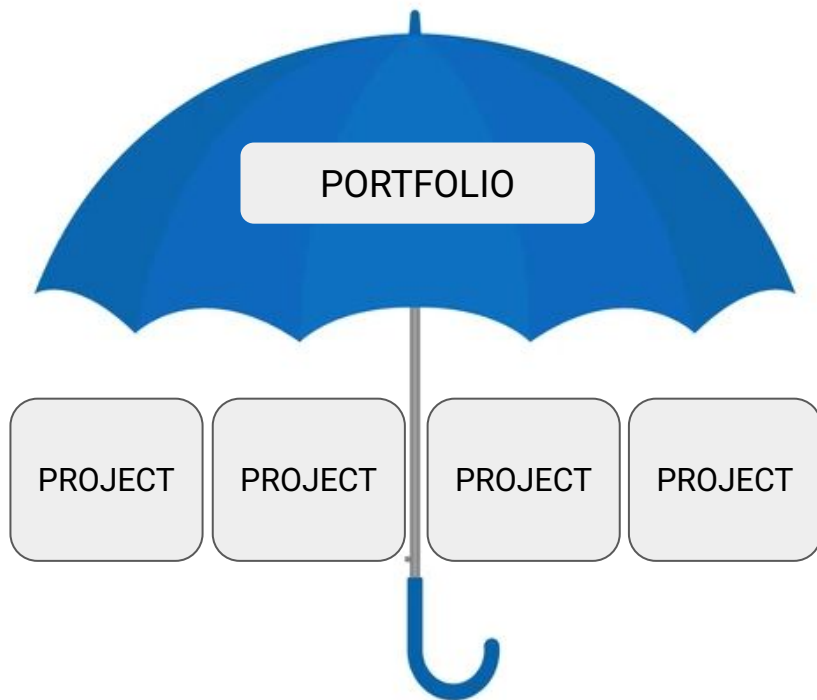
Faculty Training

“Project Design” Workshop

AKA what's a website (and why you might not want one)



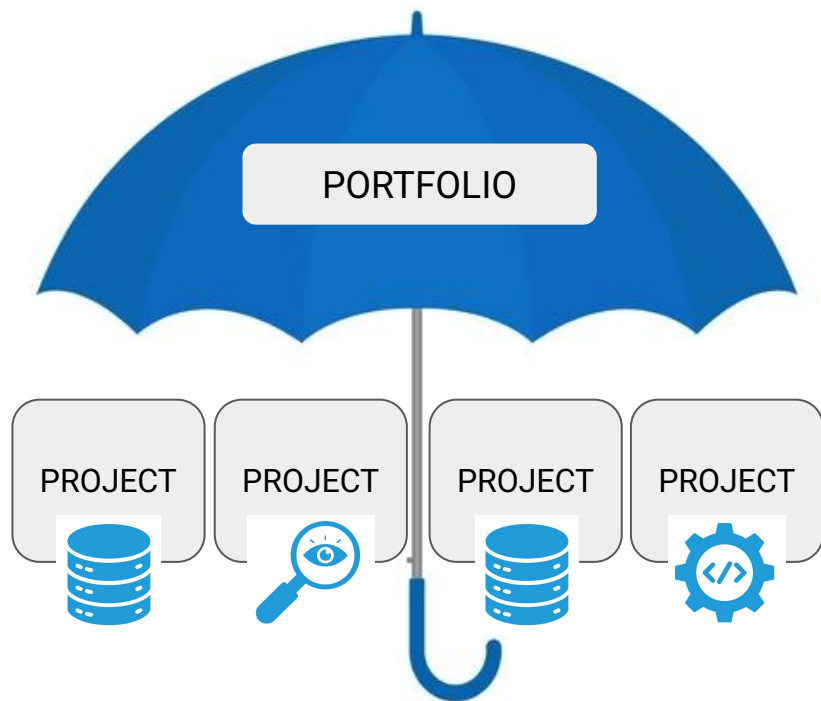
Faculty Training



“Project Design” Workshop

- Portfolio versus project

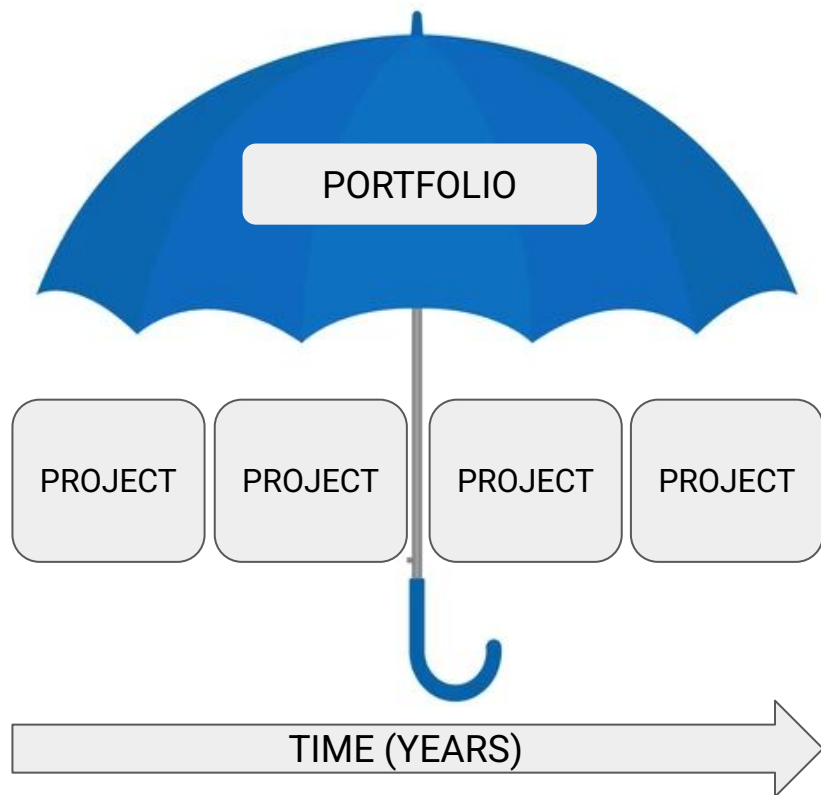
Faculty Training



“Project Design” Workshop

- Portfolio versus project
- Types of digital humanities outputs

Faculty Training



“Project Design” Workshop

- Portfolio versus project
- Types of digital humanities outputs
- Modular and sequential thinking

The Project Charter

- Collaboratively written over the course of **~1 month**



The Project Charter



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The Project Charter



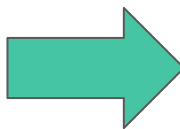
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- Acts as the project's **foundational document**
- Acts as a **contract** to ensure all team members are on the same page
- Defines the project's **goals, scope, deliverables, & organizational infrastructure**
- Expresses the team's commitment to a set of **ethical values**

The Project Charter



PRINCETON
PROSODY
ARCHIVE

Keyword or Phrase

Q "iambic pentameter" X

Collections

Linguistic x Literary x Original Bibliography x Typographically Unique x Uncategorized x

Dictionaries Word Lists

Advanced Search

Displaying 249 digitized works

Work citations can be exported to [Zotero](#)

Display 50 Results

1 Suggestions for a System of Scansion of English in *The Poetry review*.

Author Ellis, Oliver C. de C. Publication Date 1923

Publisher The Poetru Society Volume v. 14

Digitized works

5007 total 1 2 3 4 ... 50 51

	Title	Subtitle	Source id	Record id	Author	Collections
<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Certain notes of instruction in English verse 1575.	2. The steels glas ... 1576. 3. The complaint of Philomene ... 1576. Preceded by George Whetstone's A remembrance of the well employed life, and godly end of George Gascoigne, Esquire.	mdp.39015003633594	000433501	Gascoigne, George, 1542?-1577	Literary
<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Verner's law in Gothic.		mdp.39015019158776	001777095	Wood, Francis Asbury, 1859-1948	Linguistic, Literary
<input type="checkbox"/>	135000 words spelled and pronounced,	together with valuable hints and illustrations for the use of capitals, italics, numerals, and compound words ... designed for office, school, and library use	uc1.5014645	006552798	Bechtel, John Hendricks, 1841-	Linguistic, Word Lists
<input type="checkbox"/>	An abridgement of lectures on rhetoric		nyp.33433082515580	008653910	Blair, Hugh, 1718-1800	Linguistic, Literary

remarx: Quotation Finder

This is the preliminary graphical user interface for the **remarx** software tool.

Running remarx version: 0.1.0

Sentence Corpus Prep

Create a sentence corpus (csv) from a text. This process can be run multiple times for different files (currently one file at a time).

1. Select Input Text

Upload and select an input file (.xml, .txt) for sentence corpus creation. Currently, only a single file may be selected.

Drag and drop a file here, or click to open file browser



Input File: None selected

The Project Charter



PRINCETON
PROSODY

CDH Project Charter - Princeton Prosody Archive 2017-18

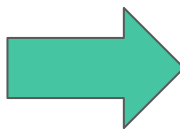
Part I: Project Summary

1. Project Description & Objectives

The Princeton Prosody Archive (PPA) is a full-text searchable database of more than 5,000 digitized works on prosody published between 1570 and 1923, the only resource of its kind. Active since 2007, the PPA will use CDH resources for the 2017-2018 project cycle in order to overhaul the user interface and backend data structure so that we can publicly launch the Archive to scholars and researchers.

"Rebuilding the Archive and User Interface," the proposed project for the 2017-2018 CDH grant cycle, picks up from the editorial curation and metadata cleaning completed during previous project cycles. It has the following objectives:

- **Articulate site layout and functionality.** This includes building detailed front end and administrative user stories; wireframing desired site functionality and layout; meeting with Technical Lead Rebecca Koeser and User Experience Designer Xinyi Li to discuss desired functionality and user experience; and fine-tuning user stories and wireframing after feedback.
- **Develop beta-site.** This includes running Solr instance on Archive (including excerpting 494 articles or chapters from larger volumes); implementing full-text and metadata search; incorporating search visualizations (such as frequency of returned results over time); implementing desired administrative functionality; and holding bi-weekly check-ins to problem solve and answer questions.
- **Design test plan for beta-site.** This includes working with OIT user experience team once we have beta-site wireframe and designing user testing exercises.
- **Run usability testing on the beta-site.** This includes inviting select users from the Bain Swiggett Committee, Historical Poetics Group, and Poetry Graduate Colloquium to test site; reporting feedback to Technical Lead Rebecca Koeser and User Experience Designer Xinyi Li.
- **Document the new site and build repository of Archive for visiting scholars.** This includes beginning the write-up of site architecture on GitHub; documenting detailed workflow and instructions for PPA staff to follow when adding new works to the Archive; creating a questionnaire and repository for visiting scholars who want to analyze the Archive; and documenting how to access this repository for PPA staff to follow and instruct.
- **Enhance site functionality and user experience.** This includes implementing changes from testing groups and consulting with visualization developers such as Ben Schmidt from Bookworm.
- **Host PPA Advisory Board to test site.** This includes inviting the Advisory Board to the CDH to test new site; designing testing activities tailored for Board; and asking for feedback (technical and editorial).
- **Launch and publicize completed PPA.** This includes reviewing Board feedback; submitting to NINES for peer review; publicizing site through appropriate online channels; and submitting press release to major scholarly organizations.



Project Charter

Project Name: Citing Marx
Updated As Of: Feb 12, 2025
Page: 1 of 7

PROJECT OVERVIEW

PROJECT NAME	Citing Marx: Die Neue Zeit, 1891-1918		
PRIMARY INVESTIGATOR	Edward Baring	GRANT	CDH Research Partnership
EXPECTED START DATE	Feb 10, 2025	EXPECTED END DATE	Aug 11, 2025

PROJECT DETAILS

PROJECT ABSTRACT

"Citing Marx" aims to track published citations of the *Manifest der Kommunistischen Partei* and *Das Kapital* (vol. 1) within articles of *Die Neue Zeit*, a socialist periodical, focusing on volumes published between 1891 and 1918. Encompassing a period which saw some of the most important debates and developments within Marxism before the Russian Revolution, the data generated through this phase of "Citing Marx" will support an exploration of whether and how these events impacted the way socialist thinkers engaged with and used Marx's writings through their changing patterns of citation.

One provisional hypothesis of the research team concerns the impact of the "Revisionism Controversy," a debate starting around 1897 that is often taken to foreshadow the break between socialism and communism. We expect that the beginning of "Revisionism Controversy" will coincide with a changing pattern of citation in *Die Neue Zeit*, and we expect to discover different citation strategies for the two sides – orthodox and revisionist – in the post-partnership analysis of the data.

PURPOSE/AUDIENCE

This research partnership aims to produce a reusable software pipeline that can accurately detect citations (direct attributed quotes and named references) of the *Manifest der Kommunistischen Partei* and *Das Kapital* within *Die Neue Zeit*.

The pipeline will be developed with an eye toward extensibility for other journals, other languages, and other texts written by Marx. Initially, the software will be of use to the project team, but we think that scholars working on the Marxist tradition will find both the software-pipeline and the generated data valuable, even though the project's results will be based upon a subset of *Die Neue Zeit* publications. The research team hopes to organize an international workshop in 2026, to share the software and resulting data, and discuss possibilities for further development.

The Project Charter



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A published (with DOI) dataset of citations to <i>Manifest der Kommunistischen Partei</i> and <i>Das Kapital</i> (vol. 1) found in <i>Die Neue Zeit</i>, 1891-1918, deposited either on Zenodo or PUL's Data Commons 	Dataset ▾	Must-Have ▾
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OUT OF SCOPE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extension of the software to include detecting allusions, indirect quotes/paraphrases, and Marxist lingua franca phrases 	Code ▾	Wish-To-H... ▾
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detecting citations in <i>Die Neue Zeit</i> issues prior to 1891 or after 1918 Creating a database Cross-lingual citation detection Publicly accessible, hosted interface or website for use by non-team members Digital scholarly edition of Marx's texts with "heat map" of citations Custom data analysis and data visualization of the citations 		
SUCCESS CRITERIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Software pipeline finds at least 90% of citations to <i>Manifest der Kommunistischen Partei</i> and <i>Das Kapital</i> (vol. 1) in <i>Die Neue Zeit</i> between 1891 		

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SUSTAINABILITY PLAN	During project closeout, the CDH will provide the PI with a Short-Term Service Agreement (STSA). Whenever possible, existing and open-source software will be used over custom solutions to minimize maintenance required in the post-partnership phase (e.g. for filtering, sorting, and visualizing dataset).
POST-PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITIES	<p>The research team plans to use the data generated during the partnership to co-write a scholarly article. The research team also plans to organize a workshop/colloquium for scholars to explore the dataset using existing filtering tools.</p> <p>The RSE team plans to write a technical paper on the experimentation and methods for submission to a computational humanities venue, such as the CHR conference or CHR journal.</p>

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PROJECT PHASES WITH MILESTONE OUTCOMES

Phase	Milestone Outcome	Anticipated Time
Annotation	Set of hand-curated annotations of citations in <i>Die Neue Zeit</i> (currently 1896-1906 are OCR'd & 1896-1901 are annotated)	Pre-partnership
Experimentation / Technical Requirements Planning	Notes and notebooks (where appropriate) demonstrating and evaluating a few different methods of citation detection, such as a notebook using NER with spaCy A recommendation on the best approach and tool format Results in the technical specifications document outlining the major contours of the software to be developed	3 months
Completing corpus of machine-readable text	OCR of <i>Die Neue Zeit</i> issues 1891-1895 and 1907-1918	2 weeks (in tandem with experimentation)
Software development	1.0 release of software/pipeline. Includes evaluation, testing, and iterating toward shipping working software that meets success criteria.	3 months
Project Closeout	Submit dataset for review by PRDS and publish dataset on chosen platform. Write up white paper. Issue STSA, off-boarding from CDH platforms, documentation and training on software use.	Post-partnership

The Project Charter



DEPENDENCIES & RISKS

DEPENDENCIES

- Current annotation method is dependent on Recogito
- For HPC use, PI will need to submit an application to access [to Della](#)

POTENTIAL RISKS

- Because Recogito occasionally goes down, the PM will periodically download data and upload to Google Drive to mitigate data loss.
- If the initial set of annotations is insufficient for evaluating/training, PI and PM may need to complete additional annotations.
- If Princeton's free eScriptorium instance is not available to OCR the remaining issues of *Die Neue Zeit*, PI will need to secure funding for commercial solution (e.g. Transkribus).

RIGHTS + PERMISSIONS

We have permission from the Friedrich Ebert Library and the Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften to use both the *Neue Zeit* texts and the Marx texts. We would need to engage in further negotiations with the various rights holders if we decided that we also wanted to give access to the original sources.

The Project Charter



PROJECT TEAM

Name	Role on Project	Dept	Role Description
Edward G. Bari...	Principal Investigator	HIS ▾	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Responsible for overall project direction and for providing regular feedback/software testing to RSE team during meetings and asynchronously.
Bennett Nagte...	Project Manager	HIS ▾	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Responsible for coordinating the communication and work of the project team, including facilitating team meetings, maintaining project documentation, and managing task-tracking in Asana.May assist with data work/feature testing.
Rebecca Koeser	Co-PI, Technical Lead	CDH ▾	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Accountable and responsible for the technical direction, design, and execution of the project.
Laure Thomps...	Research Software Engineer	CDH ▾	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Responsible for the technical direction, design, and execution of the project.
Mary Naydan	Technical PM	CDH ▾	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Responsible for defining, scoping, and prioritizing the work for the RSE team.
Jeri Wieringa	Project Advisor	CDH ▾	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Responsible for advising on the design and direction of the project and for coordinating with the larger CDH portfolio.

BUDGET

[Project budget available on request.]

The Project Charter



TERMS OF COLLABORATION

DOCUMENTATION + COMMUNICATION

Slack will be used for most day-to-day communication among team members. Meeting notes, data, and documentation will be stored in a shared folder within the CDH Research Partnership shared **Google Drive**. **Asana** will be used for non-development-related task management; all team members are expected to check off tasks promptly to asynchronously communicate on progress. A public **GitHub** repository under the Princeton-CDH organization will be used for managing development-related tasks (issues), code, and code documentation. A separate, additional GitHub repository (modeled on [PGP's](#)) will be used to version and publish data, view it via Flat GitHub, allow download of the CSV data, and serve as the basis for the dataset publication. For the duration of the research partnership, the project team is expected to meet at least once every other week to discuss progress and make decisions. Meeting frequency may need to be adjusted once active development ramps up to meet team needs. In the case of a breakdown in communication, the CDH Assistant Director may intervene to help find a mutually agreeable solution or, in very rare cases, negotiate the end of the partnership.

CREDIT + ATTRIBUTION

The project team recognizes the collaborative nature of the digital humanities and, in contrast to the single-authorship model of the traditional humanities, embraces an inclusive practice of authorship. Following the recommendation of Princeton Research Computing's [RSE Partnership Guide](#), if a publication would not have been possible without RSE project team members, then the RSEs should be included as co-authors. All student labor related to the partnership, unless part of a student's coursework, must be fairly compensated, and we encourage at minimum citation, or co-authorship if appropriate, of students and data workers in all related publications, including datasets, articles, and monographs.

PUBLICITY

The CDH Communications Manager may publicize the project and related information (such as images, links, and text) on the CDH website and newsletter, in annual reports, and on select social media (e.g. Bluesky, LinkedIn). In some cases, the Communications Manager may also work with Princeton's Office of Communications to publicize the project on Princeton media sources such as its website, social media, newsletters, magazines. To produce effective and quality publicity of the project, the Communications Manager may request additional media and information from the PI.

EXTENSIONS

The PI may request an extension beyond the allotted partnership timeframe to complete the agreed-upon deliverables by submitting a written rationale to the CDH Assistant Director, cc'ing the CDH Project Manager. Extensions may also be proposed and automatically granted by the CDH Assistant Director due to delays in the CDH development schedule.

AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the charter should be requested in writing to all project team members and the CDH Assistant Director. Changes will be recorded in the "Version History" section below. Please also update the date in the charter header.

The Project Charter



TERMS OF COLLABORATION

DOCUMENTATION + COMMUNICATION

Slack will be used for most day-to-day communication among team members. Meeting notes, data, and documentation will be stored in a shared folder within the CDH Research Partnership shared **Google Drive**. **Asana** will be used for non-development-related task management; all team members are expected to check off tasks promptly to asynchronously communicate on progress. A public **GitHub** repository under the Princeton-CDH organization will be used for managing development-related tasks (issues), code, and code documentation. A separate, additional GitHub repository (modeled on [PGP's](#)) will be used to version and publish data, view it via Flat GitHub, allow download of the CSV data, and serve as the basis for the dataset publication. For the duration of the research partnership, the project team is expected to meet at least once every other week to discuss progress and make decisions. Meeting frequency may need to be adjusted once active development ramps up to meet team needs. In the case of a breakdown in communication, the CDH Assistant Director may intervene to help find a mutually agreeable solution or, in very rare cases, negotiate the end of the partnership.

CREDIT + ATTRIBUTION

The project team recognizes the collaborative nature of the digital humanities and, in contrast to the single-authorship model of the traditional humanities, embraces an inclusive practice of authorship. Following the recommendation of Princeton Research Computing's [RSE Partnership Guide](#), if a publication would not have been possible without RSE project team members, then the RSEs should be included as co-authors. All student labor related to the partnership, unless part of a student's coursework, must be fairly compensated, and we encourage at minimum citation, or co-authorship if appropriate, of students and data workers in all related publications, including datasets, articles, and monographs.

100% (2)
humanities faculty report
this was their first time
working collaboratively

The Project Charter



SIGNATORIES

PREPARED BY	Mary Naydan Bennett Nagtegaal Rebecca Koeser Edward Baring	Jan 13, 2025
REVIEWED BY	Jeri Wieringa Rebecca Koeser Edward Baring Natalia Ermolaev Bennett Nagtegaal Laure Thompson Mary Naydan	Feb 4, 2025 Feb 4, 2025 Feb 4, 2025 Feb 4, 2025 Feb 5, 2025 Feb 5, 2025 Feb 6, 2025
APPROVED BY	Meredith Martin	Feb 10, 2025

RECOMMENDED CITATION

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<http://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.14861082>.

Chartering Outside the CDH

Specific to Princeton Humanities context:

- Primary objective is educational
- Humanities faculty in particular are not trained in collaborative or computational research practices

Widely Applicable Components:

- All collaborative projects benefit from documented goals, deliverables, scope, and responsibilities
- Platform for advocating for the scholarly value of the software

Conclusions

- Using Charters to turn “magical” computational elements into part of the Humanities research process.
- Educational work paves way for more equitable relationship between researchers and RSE team.
- We know this works for Humanities scholars and propose that it may be useful more broadly.

Scan for a copy of the CDH charter template



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A large, bright cyan L-shaped graphic that frames the text on the right and bottom sides.