The worlds of print and digital are not in opposition but can instead be powerfully combined to create unique research opportunities and meaningful, authentic teaching opportunities—especially for our “digital native” undergraduate students.

Digital scholarship combines the richness of primary sources (from rare books and manuscripts to maps, broadsides, and ephemera) with the reach of “big data” to radically expand scholars’ ability to explore and understand the past. It affords students and faculty in all disciplines the opportunity to engage with primary sources in new ways, to pursue discovery, and to promote and share scholarship.

The original Athenaeum brought scholars physically together for teaching and learning. Our digital scholarship initiative brings this model into the 21st century, offering a virtual space to foster the conversations and collaborations that characterized the Athenaeum of the Greek world. We believe these efforts will help reshape the ways we teach, create, and learn—at Johns Hopkins and ultimately around the world.

The Sheridan Libraries will serve as the gateway to this new kind of Athenaeum, helping faculty and students to leverage digital technology in the service of discovering, rediscovering, and translating the past. Our collections and spaces—particularly the Brody Learning Commons—will be essential for the success of researchers pursuing these kinds of projects.

We look to the Rising to the Challenge campaign as an opportunity to increase support for:

• People—offering faculty and students funding for research and strengthening the Libraries’ expertise with endowed positions
• Technologies—acquiring and developing the digital tools our scholars need and supporting the dissemination of the knowledge they create
• Acquisitions—strengthening our collections, particularly rare books and manuscripts, in areas of greatest interest to our faculty

“The most exciting thing about digital scholarship is that one cannot truly know all that is going to happen. We are creating a new community of scholars who are driven to explore the past and committed to sharing their discoveries with the world.”

Winston Tabb, Sheridan Dean of University Libraries and Museums
Technical Support/Software and Equipment

$2,000,000

The availability of materials in digital form will be critical for use by scholars. Rather than pursuing a mass-scale digitization “solution,” we envision a unit dedicated to the strategic digitization of materials for use by scholars and for long-term preservation of our special collections.

Faculty Workshops

$25,000 a year for a minimum of 2 years or endowment of $300,000

Hands-on training and assistance with the technologies needed for successful digital research to ensure basic competency and assist scholars in keeping up with the latest applications and tools.

CONTACT US TODAY

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Two Endowed, Named Librarians for the Digital Scholarship

$3,500,000

Dedicated librarians for digital scholarship will ensure that faculty and students have a ready resource, in addition to their respective discipline liaisons, with whom they can interface for research, projects, grants, and other initiatives.

Endowed Geographic Information Systems Librarian

$2,000,000

Geographic Information System (GIS) tools, long used by scientists and social scientists, are increasingly being used by humanists to “map” novels, literary genres, and the spread of languages and ideas. Training current faculty, engaging new instructors, and partnering with student researchers will be essential to promoting and enabling these new kinds of scholarly pursuits.

Faculty Fellowships

$60,000 a year for a minimum of 2 years, or endowment of $1,000,000

Faculty fellowships will be competitively awarded each year, providing faculty members with the resources to pursue imaginative scholarly projects and capitalize on new applications of digital technology in the arts and sciences.

Graduate Fellowships

$60,000 a year for a minimum of 2 years, or endowment of $1,000,000

Fellowship funding for fully enrolled graduate students to pursue opportunities available for research, hands-on archival work, and curatorial activity in our Department of Special Collections and through the University Archives. Examples include: Dissertation Research Fellows, Archives Fellows, Curatorial Fellows, and Digital Scholarship Teaching Fellows.

Undergraduate Research Awards

$10,000 a year for a minimum of 2 years, or endowment of $200,000

Student fellowships for digital scholarship projects will be competitively awarded to exceptional individuals each year, providing the resources to pursue imaginative scholarly projects and capitalize on new applications of digital technology.

Interdisciplinary Collaborative Projects

$60,000 a year for a minimum of 2 years, or endowment of $1,000,000

Support for scholarly projects that utilize the rare book, manuscript, and archival collections of the Sheridan Libraries to engage faculty, undergraduates, and graduate students across Johns Hopkins University and reach out to the wider academic community around the world.

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