



Arts & Humanities
Research Council



AHRC AND BT RESEARCH NETWORKING PILOT FUNDING CALL DETAILS

Key Dates

Applications live on the JeS System; **Tuesday 21st April 2009**

Deadline for Applications; **Thursday 21st May 2009**

Introduction

1. The Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and British Telecommunications plc (BT) are pleased to announce a call for research projects of mutual strategic interest under a pilot programme of **Research Networking**.
2. The research theme for this call will be **'Digital Heritage: understanding the personal, social and cultural contexts of consumers of cultural heritage'**.
3. The AHRC and BT are working together to develop a collaboration to bring together the arts and humanities research community with BT researchers and other stakeholders and partners with an interest in digital heritage to facilitate knowledge exchange and collaborative research. Project proposals to this call should involve BT through for example, provision of staff expertise and/or 'in-kind' access to technology and capability. Academic researchers should contact John Seton from BT Research (john.seton@bt.com) to discuss appropriate BT involvement and/or other parties with a potential interest in participating in this call.

Aims of the AHRC/BT Pilot Research Networking funding call

4. The AHRC/BT Pilot Research Networking call is intended to support interdisciplinary collaboration between researchers to explore the theme of **'Digital Heritage: understanding the personal, social and cultural contexts of consumers of cultural heritage'**. The AHRC and BT welcome networks which involve academic colleagues from the arts and humanities and BT staff as well as non academic organisations, businesses and other parties whose interests complement the aims of the pilot programme.

5. This pilot programme is intended to enable groups of researchers to explore ideas and maximise opportunities for advances in creativity, insights, knowledge and understanding of **digital heritage**, with outcomes of value both to the arts and humanities research community, the project partner/s and other contexts where appropriate. Outcomes from projects could be proposals appropriate for consideration under other AHRC funding programmes, including bespoke Knowledge Transfer schemes, or wider cross Research Council priority themes such as the Science and Heritage Programme or the Digital Economy Programme.

Suggested Themes and Key Interests

6. The following themes and questions represent a selection of key interest areas that emerged from preliminary consultations between the arts and humanities community and BT. These themes should be viewed as interrelated rather than discrete topics and they are intended to serve as an indication of current areas of potential research interest rather than as an exhaustive list. Proposals that fall outside of the listed topics are also welcomed:

- **How can the availability and accessibility of heritage sites/cultural collections be enhanced across time and space through digital technology?**
- **What do audiences at/visitors to heritage sites want and need such technology to do? How does this vary at local, national and international levels?**
- **How does specific technology influence the ways in which we interpret heritage environments e.g. artifacts/exhibits/landscapes?**
- **What are the legal issues around digital heritage e.g. digital rights, ownership, authority?**
- **How can we ensure that use of technology in digital heritage does not exclude certain user groups?**
- **How can we enhance the end-to-end experience of visiting a heritage environment i.e. from the initial discovery of a site to visit through to further exploration and investigation after a visit has been made?**

- **What are public audiences' and end users' views about digital heritage? How can we leverage these views into potential research projects?**
- **How might digital heritage blur the boundaries between consumer and curator?**

Funding Limits:

7. This Pilot Research Networking scheme is intended to facilitate interactions between researchers and stakeholders from a range of disciplines, institutions and organisations to explore and develop research questions around the theme of '**Digital Heritage**'. Example activities include a short-term series of workshops, seminars, networking activities or other events.
8. Proposals for up to a maximum Full Economic Cost (FEC) of **£15,000 for a period of up to one year** may be submitted. The exact mechanism for networking and the duration must be fully justified in the proposal.

Geographic availability:

9. UK wide.

Closing dates for applications:

10. The AHRC/BT Pilot Research Networking closing date for applications is **4 pm Thursday 21st May 2009**.
11. In all cases, we aim to tell you the outcome of your application within 6 weeks of the closing date.

Institution Eligibility:

12. UK Higher Education Institutions, organisations classed as Independent Research Organisations by the AHRC.

Application Guidance and Peer Review Arrangements

13. Full proposals must be submitted electronically to the AHRC by the academic partner using the Research Councils' Je-S system.
14. To prepare your proposal in Je-S choose 'Add New Document', then specify Council: AHRC, Document Type: Standard Proposal and Scheme: AHRC/BT Pilot Research Networking. Je-S will then create a proposal, displaying appropriate section headings. Using 'Help' at any point accesses helptext within the Je-S

system which provides context-specific guidance on how to complete the Je-S form.

15. There is detailed Helptext within the JeS system that provides information about how to complete each section of the proposal form. There is also a dedicated JeS Helpdesk that provides telephone and email support with the proposal process. They are available between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday, and can be contacted by email at jeshelp@rcuk.ac.uk or by telephone on 01793 444164. Please also refer to the AHRC Research Funding Guide for guidance <http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/FundingOpportunities/Documents/Research%20Funding%20Guide.pdf>.
16. Once complete, you should upload a Case for Support and other supporting information as attachments, and submit your proposal. See below for guidance on information to include in your Case for Support. Je-S will forward your proposal to your Research Organisation, who in turn will submit your proposal to the AHRC. Please ensure you allow sufficient time prior to AHRC deadlines for your Research Organisation to be able to do this (note that some Research Organisations will have their own internal deadlines).
17. **Full proposals must be submitted by 4pm on 21 May 2009.** Each full proposal will be assessed by the AHRC Knowledge Transfer Peer Review Panel against the scheme's criteria. Unsuccessful applicants will be given comprehensive feedback.

Case for Support

18. You should attach a supporting case for the proposed project of **not more than 2000 words**. This must be produced in typescript (and may include diagrams, etc) which is legible and sufficiently clear to allow good quality black and white reproduction. The application will be deemed ineligible if the Case for Support exceeds 2000 words. It is essential that its content is agreed by all project partners.
19. The Case for Support should be clear, concise and not cluttered by technical jargon. It will be the responsibility of the applicants to ensure that any information is worded in such a way to protect commercially confidential or sensitive areas. AHRC will assume that the applicant has obtained necessary clearances from the BT or any other partner involved in the application. Where there is commercially confidential information that the applicant does not want to

be made widely available but is required to support Peer Review, this should be included in a separate document clearly headed "In Commercial Confidence: AHRC Knowledge Transfer Peer Review Panel only". This document should clearly state its relationship to the sections of the Case for Support and should be attached using attachment type 'Other' in Je-S.

20. General guidance about what to include in the Case for Support can be found in Section 4 of the AHRC Research Funding Guide:

<http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/FundingOpportunities/Documents/Research%20Funding%20Guide.pdf>

21. It is important that the key areas listed below are included and that both academic and project partner perspectives are given:

- **Background** - an explanation of why the application is appropriate for funding under the AHRC/BT Pilot Research Networking call. There should be a clear justification for the project rather than just a description. To what extent will the proposed activities generate fruitful and novel interactions? What is the research context in which the activities will operate and how will they advance knowledge and understanding in the fields concerned? What preliminary discussions have taken place between the Principal Investigator and BT and/or other partners and what has been the outcome of these?
- **The purpose of the project** – aims and objectives of the project should be stated together with measurable goals/milestones.
- **Timetable of Activities** - You should give a proposed timetable of activities for events such as workshops, symposia, conferences, meetings of the advisory group.
- **Key speakers or participants** - If there are specific speakers or participants who would be central to the success of project, these should be listed together with their expertise, in addition to some indication of their availability.
- **Management and co-ordination** - How will the activities be managed? Will there be an advisory group or steering committee? If so, who are the proposed members and does the membership reflect the constituencies the proposal intends to reach? What will be the roles of the Principal Investigator, the Co-

Investigator, and other members? Please note that you are permitted only one Co-Investigator under this scheme.

- **Dissemination and Exploitation** – outline how the proposed activities will contribute to your project partner/s’ strategic interests, and how the outcomes of the project will be more widely disseminated. Details of any plans to enable the collaboration to continue once the award period has ended should also be entered in this section.

Justification of Resources

22. State briefly the resources being provided by the academic, BT and any other project partners, including in-kind contributions, and provide justification for them. Please note that AHRC requires a separate attachment for Justification of Resources.

Impact Plan

23. Please note, you are not required to attach an Impact Plan for this scheme.

Costs

24. This Pilot Research Networking scheme will meet the costs of the salary of the applicant for the time spent overseeing and providing intellectual input to the activities, the cost of setting up and coordinating the activities (for example, the salary costs of a coordinator) along with associated Indirect and Estates costs. Time spent by the applicant on the co-ordination of the activities is not expected to form the majority of the cost of the proposal. The salary costs of participants may not be included in the proposal.

25. The scheme is not intended to fund stand-alone events which are not part of the research process, for example events held to disseminate findings from research already undertaken. Fees for consultants or speakers will therefore be considered only on an exceptional basis where it can be demonstrated that their participation is in keeping with the aims of the scheme to facilitate the exploration of new ideas. All costs must be itemised separately within the budget breakdown.

Project Partners

26. When adding BT as your project partner you will need to complete the following process; Choose Edit Project Partner from the main menu, Add New Project Partner Item, Select Organisation and enter 'British Telecommunications PLC' as

search criteria, Select Department and enter 'BT Innovate', Select Contact and enter surname 'Seton', initial 'J'. The correct contact address should complete for Dr John Seton should complete for you once he has been selected.

Letter of Support

27. A mandatory, signed letter of commitment and support from each project partner appropriate authority must be included with the application form at this stage. For this call, a letter of support from BT will be provided to the applicant directly at the pre-submission stage when an interest has been established. In addition, applicants are advised to discuss potential issues in relation to intellectual property at the application stage with a view to managing expectations in anticipation of a successful outcome.

28. Unless stated otherwise, the ownership of intellectual property, and responsibility for its exploitation, rests with the organisation that generates it. Where the grant is associated with more than one research organisation and/or other project partners, the basis of collaboration between the organisations, including ownership of intellectual property and rights to exploitation, is expected to be set out in a formal collaboration agreement. It is the responsibility of the Research Organisation to put such an agreement in place before the research begins. The terms of collaboration agreements must not conflict with the Research Councils' terms and conditions.

Assessment of Applications

29. Each full proposal will be peer reviewed by the AHRC's Knowledge Transfer Peer Review Panel whose membership includes a range of academic and business experience and expertise. The criteria to be used in the assessment of each proposal are:

- The extent to which the proposal meets the objectives of the AHRC/BT Pilot Research Networking funding call.
- The extent of the strategic fit to the theme of the call.
- The extent of the contribution (including in-kind contribution) and commitment to the project by all partners.
- The significance of the partnership (i.e. why is this partnership of particular individuals important to the project).
- The quality of the research process outlined, including: research agenda, participants, sustainability and appropriateness of methods to foster interactions.

- The extent to which the proposed activities will generate genuine and novel interaction, including the potential for them to lead to advances in knowledge and understanding in the fields concerned and/or new high quality cross-disciplinary research projects beyond the lifetime of the award.
- Whether the Principal and Co-Investigator demonstrate the requisite skills and experience to manage the proposed activities, and whether there is a sufficiently broad range of expertise and experience amongst the other named participants.
- The extent to which the requested funding delivers value for money in support of the proposal's objectives.

30. The Panel will recommend whether the application should be supported or not, taking into account the fit to the aims and objectives of the AHRC/BT Pilot Research Networking call, the quality of the work proposed and the significance to both partners. Each application will receive one of the following grades:

- **Successful:** the proposal will be funded. If the value of the award differs to the amount requested then feedback will be provided.
- **Unsuccessful:** the proposal will not be funded either because it does not meet the requirements of the funding criteria. Feedback to applicants will be provided in all unsuccessful cases.

Reporting

31. As part of the terms and conditions of an AHRC award you are required to submit an end of award report **no later than three months** after the end of the award period. End of award reports will be evaluated by the AHRC Knowledge Transfer Peer Review Panel.