

Statement of Grant Purpose

I wish to undertake a Fulbright study research scholarship at University of Bergen taking a close look into the many similarities between digital literature and Modernism, even though these two movements are separated by many decades since their inception. The University of Bergen has a world class digital culture program and a research environment to which I wish to contribute. I am hoping to work closely with Professor Scott Rettberg and the faculty of the Digital Culture program as well as contribute to the ELMCIP (Electronic Literature as a Model of Creativity and Innovation in Practice) project, both of which will guide me in my research.

My research will be taking a close look at structure and literary techniques that digital literature and Modernism have in common. For example, within the plains of Modernist literature, there always seemed to be a great degree of experimentation with the way of how the literature was written both stylistically and in its content. Modernist literature managed to break away from the confines of structured literature, like that of previous literary movements, and becomes a type of literature that is more up to the interpretation of the reader than the content that is presented. Digital literature manages to involve the reader the same way as Modernism, but goes even further thanks to technological advances in digital media. With the implementation of computers as a medium for the literature to be created, distributed, and presented, digital literature is not tied to the limits that a page offers and breaking with print tradition in a way that mirrors Modernism's break with previous literary forms. There are also many elements from Modernism found throughout digital literature as in the case with the open to interpretation aspect that Modernism showcases. For example, even though Modernism has the strict parameters of the page, writers managed to overcome them by experimenting with the ways that they expressed their content. This sort of innovation can be seen in digital literature with the implementation of the computer as the source of both input and output of content. In being a dynamic literature, digital literature manages to do detach from the confines that traditional literature has had. For example digital literature can manage to blend in video, sound and even reader interaction within each work and very much like Modernism, all of these aspects are left completely to the interpretation of the reader. The only limitation that digital literature has is the creativity, author's vision and the limits (even though they are nigh infinite) that the programming language used for the creation of literature may have. It is due to this grand vastness that digital literature offers that makes it a rather compelling subject of study. Thanks to the many technological advances, the creation of digital literature is able to progress, making it, not only a recent type of literature, but also, a rapidly and continuously evolving literature that manages to push the boundaries of literature as a whole.

For my research I will be needing to dive in and highly familiarize myself with both, Modernism and digital literature. As a base, I will study thoroughly Jessica Pressman's book *Digital Modernism: Making It New in New Media*. This book will guide and help me out on where to start on my research. I will have to take a greater look at many Modernist authors such as William Carlos Williams, T.S. Eliot, E. E. Cummings, and James Joyce (to mention a few) and compare and contrast styles within the movement in order to have a greater concrete idea of what are the styles that prevail the most and what themes a general consensus of authors from the movement write about. For digital literature, I will need to research from its conception to how it stands to this very day with the help of the University of Bergen Digital Program and with ELMCIP Electronic Literature Knowledge Base. The research will not be wholly limited only to works of digital literature, instead I will go beyond and take a look at

manifestations of literature in digital media see how digital literature is being used and identify how far it has reached into other media. With this in mind, I will initially research Modernism and digital literature individually so that I will have enough information to do a concrete comparative analysis.

In choosing a country such as Norway to do my research, I will be able to have different points of view and interpretations of works mainly due to the cultural differences. Bergen is a hub for cultural activity in digital literature, thanks to the efforts of the Digital Culture program and research group. In August 5-7, 2015 they will be hosting the Electronic Literature Organization's annual conference, which will be titled: "The End(s) of Electronic Literature." This conference will be the ideal launching of my research project. The research that I will be conducting will mainly take place within the premises of the University of Bergen for I will be taking advantage of the resources that they will have available. I will make the most out of the professionals within the fields of my research, such as Professor Scott Rettberg, by participating actively in the ELMCIP Knowledge Base, by helping them tag and categorize entries on electronic literature in ways that help us identify Modernist characteristics. University of Bergen also hosts a Fulbright Scholar in Digital Culture, which enriches the program with outstanding scholars in the field, and with whom I may find opportunities for common research and collaboration.

I believe that my project will encourage more research within this area of digital literature. By being able to me also a multimedia type of literature, digital literature also manages to have a greater outreach than that of traditional literature. Digital literature managed to break the walls of how literature can be expressed to the point that it has assimilated with many popular forms of entertainment as is the case with video games. I wish to take from this research more than just the knowledge that I am going to gain out of it. By being in a foreign country, I am hoping that I will learn from their culture. In doing so, I will be able to have a different perspective on how to see the world. I will also be exposing myself with Norwegian and Scandinavian works of digital literature that spans from a wide variety of authors. During my stay at University of Bergen I would like to take the courses DIKULT 203: Electronic Literature a course that will help me expand my knowledge when it comes to the different digital literatures; DIKULT 207: Digital Humanities in Practice will help me delve even deeper with ELMCIP since it is a course that is directly linked with the project, allowing me to adapt the knowledge to my research in a direct way; and finally DIKULT 302: Key Theories of Digital culture, which will help me out with the analytical aspects of my research, giving polish to the content that I will produce for my research.

This research will help me advance myself in my academic career, for what I wish to study greatly deals with Modernism. I believe that what qualifies me for this research project has much to do with my experience and exposure to both of these fields during my Bachelor's term. I have been involved in a digital humanities internship that has mainly focused on digital literature to which may be considered and the seed of inception of this whole research. As far as when it comes to Modernism, I am planning on taking both a Modernist literature course and a Modern poetry course which will help me delve more into the literary movement. Digital literature has managed to become the case of much study and with this research I believe that I will be able to add something more to a very young literary genre.