



September 19, 2011

Dear Travis,

I am delighted to write this Letter of Commitment for the 2011 NEH Digital Humanities Start-Up Level I Grant for Topic Modeling for Humanities Research. This one-day workshop will facilitate a unique opportunity for cross-fertilization, information exchange, and collaboration between and among humanities scholars and researchers in natural language processing on the subject of topic modeling applications and methods.

As an Assistant Professor at the [University of Maryland iSchool](#) and [University of Maryland Institute for Advanced Computer Studies](#), I support efforts to bring together humanists and specialists in topic modeling in a workshop where there is potential to compare approaches and to generate best practices for scholars in the field.

My own research on exploring social science corpora with topic models and developing cross-cultural models is very relevant to the proposed event. I would be willing to commit to aid this workshop by identifying and recruiting participants, suggesting potential areas of interest, reviewing the final white paper.

I am confident in you and the team of personnel you have put together for this grant and look forward to working with you. I urge the NEH to grant this application and would be delighted to discuss this further if needed.

Sincerely,

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