



CASE STUDY

NACBS-Gale Digital Scholar Lab Fellowships

Gale Digital Scholar Lab Takes Research in British Library Newspapers to a New Level with Digital Humanities Approaches

In partnership with NACBS (North American Conference on British Studies), Gale invited five fellows to spend the 2023–24 academic year working in depth with our [British Library Newspapers](#) and [Digital Scholar Lab](#) to explore how a digital humanities approach could elevate their research.

Join us as the NACBS-Gale Fellows take a look back on their experience—and imagine what Gale can do for both your research and your students' learning!



TANNER OGLE, PH.D.

Candidate, Texas A&M University, United States

Project: To develop class activities for an early American history survey course, Ogle researched the influence of the Jacobite rising rebellion of 1745 on British imperial policy. By centering on this rebellion as a formative moment in British imperial history, his research not only contributes to reinterpreting the ideological origins of the American Revolution but challenges the timelines of the Second British Empire and the American Revolution, which have traditionally started in 1763. In the classroom, Ogle imparted critical thinking skills by analyzing the British press during a key moment of the American Revolution through *British Library Newspapers*.

REFLECTIONS ON THE FELLOWSHIP

Overall experience:

The fellowship not only helped me develop more digital humanities skills and enabled research through an otherwise inaccessible database, the fellowship helped me cultivate critical thinking skills in my students through an in-class activity on public opinion and news bias.

While I continuously use [Eighteenth Century Collections Online](#) and the [Seventeenth and Eighteenth Century Burney Newspapers Collection](#) databases, accessing the provincial newspapers offered a unique angle that furthered my research of the influence of the Jacobite Rebellion of 1745 on British policies and perceptions during the American Revolution.

Fellowship highlights:

The *British Library Newspapers* database was exceptionally helpful for accessing local information that is absent from the London press.

Classroom impact:

For the teaching portion, I created a classroom assignment centering on public opinion and the theme of “fake news.” Here I challenged students to develop critical thinking skills by analyzing the British press during a key moment of the American Revolution.

Each group was asked to reflect on whether they thought their newspaper was ideologically motivated (one-sided) or if it was economically motivated (showing both sides), and to consider the cost of each model.

Impact on research going forward:

The fellowship was also beneficial because it increased my awareness of different techniques for digital humanities scholars. ... For other projects, I would recommend the topic modeling tool and using *Gale Digital Scholar Lab* for data storage. The more I used the *Lab*, the more I came to the conclusion that it is best suited for scholars studying the later nineteenth and twentieth centuries because it is most useful in limiting large datasets.



“The *British Library Newspapers* database was useful in ways I did not anticipate.”

—Tanner Ogle, Ph.D. Candidate, Texas A&M University, United States

ABOUT BRITISH LIBRARY NEWSPAPERS

Unparalleled in depth and scope, *British Library Newspapers* consists of collections from the British Library, which span 300 years of newspaper publishing in the United Kingdom and Ireland. The rise of newspapers in Britain was a phenomenon that characterized a new age. The newspaper was increasingly a medium for information required by the commercially minded societies of major cities and regional centers.

Taken as a whole, the huge production of newspapers in Britain provides an enormous resource for research in all topics relevant to British life, both urban and rural.

[Learn more](#)

ABOUT THE NACBS-GALE FELLOWSHIPS

Gale and NACBS offered five NACBS-Gale Non-Residential Fellowships to support research or teaching projects that rely on *Gale Primary Sources*, including those held in Gale's *British Library Newspapers* series and *Decolonization* collection, and use DH methodologies.

Each fellow received a stipend of \$2,500 to support the equivalent of one month's full-time work (160 hours). Awardees could dedicate four consecutive weeks to the fellowship project or spread their work out over a longer period. Applicants from all countries were eligible to apply for the fellowship. Eligible applicants were required to be members of NACBS and be either doctoral students or have Ph.D.s.

[Learn more](#)

How can *Gale Digital Scholar Lab* and *British Library Newspapers* expand and enliven your research?

Contact your Gale representative for more info.