

DIGITAL SCHOLARSHIP NEWSLETTER

A NEW FREEDMAN CENTER EXPERIENCE

The Freedman Center for Digital Scholarship (FC) is adding new services for the Fall semester that support experimentation with language models. **To make these changes, the FC will close in July 2025 and reopen in August 2025.** [This webpage gives a detailed look at what's planned.](#)

WHAT'S CHANGING

The FC technology lab is moving into the Collaboration Commons to provide a more comfortable environment. Computers with more robust hardware will be deployed. Language model software will be added. The FC will have hours where staff can assist with software and technology without an appointment, in person or online. The Selfie Studio is being closed.

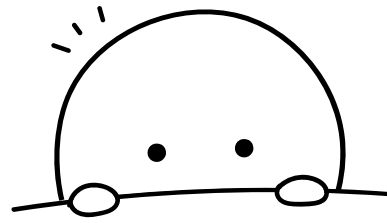
WHAT'S THE SAME

The FC is open to CWRU affiliates, partner institutions including CIA and CIM, and the public. The lab is self service outside of staffed times. Changes will result in no decrease in study space. The Digital Scholarship team still consults by appointment on projects and provides guidance on areas of expertise, including digital humanities, geospatial mapping, digitization, R, Python, virtual reality, and open-access publishing.

IN THIS NEWSLETTER:

- Changes in the Freedman Center: planned closure in July and reopening in August
- What's new in the Freedman Fellows program, including a September forum
- Highlights from Scholarly Commons, CWRU's repository for scholarly work from faculty, staff, and students

NEW TECHNOLOGY



We are upgrading our technology. All computers will be replaced. Two high-end consumer desktops with language model experimentation software, including LM Anywhere and Ollama, will be added. We will frequently update software.

Our two high-end desktops have the following specifications:

- Dual Nvidia RTX 4500 Ada 24GB GPUs (graphics cards)
- Intel Xeon W7-2475X processor
- 128GB RAM
- 2TB solid-state hard drive



You can do everything you could do in the old FC lab, *but* you can also:

- process larger datasets
- process data, models, and media much faster
- run local language models for testing and experimentation

Spaces are shifting. The technology lab will be relocated behind the glass of the Collaboration Commons. The current lab space will be replaced with study seating, resulting in no decrease in study space.

NEW SPACES

NEW SERVICES

Get help without an appointment.

During staffed lab hours, users can get help with software or equipment in the moment. Users can come into KSL or drop in online. Appointments are still available with the Digital Scholarship team.

WHAT TO EXPECT AS THE FC CHANGES

MAY 2025



Selfie Studio closed; computer configuration will be in flux

JUNE 2025



Furniture begins to be relocated in the lab and Commons; equipment may be moved around

JULY 2025



FC closes: Technology lab and digitization equipment is offline; space closes for movers; equipment lending continues

AUGUST 2025



FC reopens: New computers deployed; lab is relocated to the Commons; studios converted to other use; staffed lab hours begin

AMPLIFYING UNDER-GRADUATE RESEARCH



Discussions is the open access, undergraduate research journal of Case Western Reserve University. This peer reviewed journal is produced by CWRU undergraduates and publishes articles in various disciplines from undergraduate around the world. *Discussions*

has been publishing since 2006. This academic year, readers from almost 100 countries have downloaded *Discussions* articles more than 5,400 times.



The journal is accepting submissions for its next publication cycle until August 25, 2025. Contact discussionsresearch@case.edu for more information.

[ACCESS THE JOURNAL HERE](#)



SCHOLARLY
COMMONS
UPDATES FOR Q1

1,668
NEW WORKS HAVE
BEEN POSTED.

POSTED WORKS SAW

15,939

DOWNLOADS FROM

1,235

INSTITUTIONS IN

151

COUNTRIES AND
REGIONS.

[CLICK HERE TO
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JOIN US FOR THE FREEDMAN FELLOWS FORUM IN SEPTEMBER

The annual Freedman Fellows Forum is shifting from spring semester to September. This shift allows fellows more time to work on projects over the summer and aligns celebrating last year's cohort with announcing next year's cohort. Details about the Forum will be posted on Campus Groups and an RSVP link sent out in the Digital Scholarship newsletter in July.



FELLOWS IN THE NEWS

OLATUNDE AKANBI



KSL recently posted a story about Case Western Reserve University School of Engineering PhD candidate and Freedman Student Fellow Olatunde Akanbi's research monitoring crop health and soil nutrient flows. Akanbi's research earned the best three-page poster paper award among 119 submissions at the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Big Data Conference 2024 in Washington, D.C. He is working with Digital Scholarship team member R. Benjamin Gorham. [Learn more about Akanbi's research.](#)



**CASE WESTERN RESERVE
UNIVERSITY**
Kelvin Smith Library

Freedman Center for
Digital Scholarship

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