

The media covers funding for humanities research, but pays almost no attention to funding for humanities teaching.

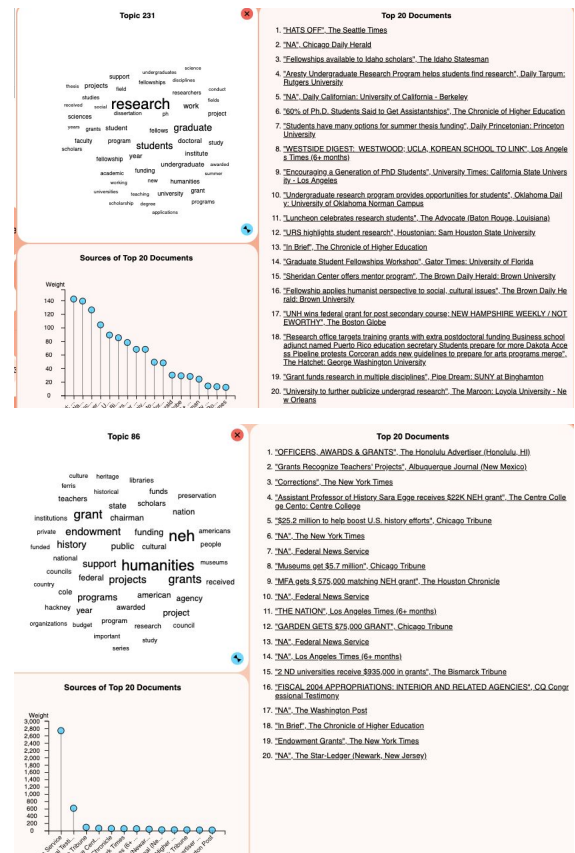
Analyzing our [Collection 1](#) (82,324 articles in U.S. news media mentioning “humanities”) with the aid of a topic model ([C-1.250](#)), we observe that the media makes the public aware of humanities funding in higher ed as primarily a research rather than teaching priority. The media focuses on funding for both student (undergrad and graduate) and faculty-led research in universities, as well as on the establishment of research endowments. Funding sources covered are federal, state and private funding. (See representative articles [a](#), [b](#)).

But funding for humanities higher-ed *teaching* only appears in two top articles of relevant topics in our model (i.e., articles highly associated with such topics). See, for instance, article [c](#) associated with topic [231](#) on higher ed funding; and article [d](#) associated with topic [86](#) on grants from the National Endowment of the Humanities (NEH). In both cases, only federal funding is discussed.

By way of comparison, the limited media coverage of humanities education in the K-12 system (kindergarten to grade 12 in the U.S.) focuses almost exclusively on teaching. Though sparse (see our finding in [KF-7-3](#)), such coverage centers on teaching-related activities that include field trips, reading programs, and instructional training. Funding sources mentioned include public and private agencies, though recipients mentioned are primarily in the public school system (e.g., articles [e](#), [f](#), [g](#)).

This leads us to ask: to what degree does the “missing” discourse about funding for higher-ed humanities teaching reflect *actual*

differences in funding levels and initiatives for the humanities? Alternatively, are we just seeing a gap in what the media finds interesting in the humanities in higher ed? These questions frame two kinds of problems suggesting a need for different kinds of solutions.



Top 20 articles of Topics #231 and #86 viewed in [TopicBubbles](#).

Document collection studied: [C-1](#): U.S. News Media, c. 1989-2019 (WE1S core collection of articles mentioning humanities).

Topic model of this collection: [C-1.250](#). (250-topics)

Interesting sample topics: [86](#), [231](#)

Representative articles: [a](#), [b](#), [c](#), [d](#), [e](#), [f](#), [g](#)

Evidentiary documentation: [WE1S report](#)