

Grant Proposal Abstract: *The Journal of Fantasy and Fan Cultures*

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I seek support for an exciting project sponsored by the English Department and designed to get students more involved in experiential learning, increase student enrollment in our department, and teach our students marketable skills. We plan this year to establish an international, peer-reviewed journal, *The Journal of Fantasy and Fan Cultures*, for undergraduate and graduate scholars and essayists. This journal will ultimately become a multimedia journal, presenting scholarship and essays in innovative media formats. The fantasy genre, in books, films, television shows, games, and other media, is possibly the most popular genre in the world right now, yet there are relatively few academic venues in which it is explored. We seek to open the study of the fantasy genre to those who are most likely to be invested in it, emerging scholars and essayists at the undergraduate and graduate levels. The journal would initially accept written submissions and later submissions in other formats (video, podcast, hypertext, et cetera) as well. Through the establishment of a dedicated online publishing lab and course-credit internships, undergraduate and graduate students at SIUC would run the journal under faculty supervision, gaining valuable professional experience in peer review, web design, editing, and online multimedia publishing. This would contribute to recruitment efforts for the English Department and the university as a whole.

Start-up costs associated with this project include those for a dedicated workstation computer, for submission, design, and production software, and for advertising.