

# THE AWARDS 2022

## Research Project of the Year: Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

<b>Institution name</b>	University of Leicester
<b>Submission title or project name</b>	The Dickens Code
<b>Nominee/key personnel</b>	Dr Claire Wood
<b>URL</b>	<a href="https://dickenscode.org/">https://dickenscode.org/</a>
<b>Submission</b>	<p>Charles Dickens is a giant of English literature, yet there are texts in Dickens' own hand that remain unread, written in an adapted form of shorthand. Supported by AHRC funding, Dr Claire Wood and Professor Hugo Bowles set out to solve this 150-year-old mystery and bring stenographic culture to wider public attention. The project assembled an academic network, drawing expertise from Dickens Studies, Stenographical Studies, Digital Humanities, Forensic Linguistics, and Informatics.</p> <p>However, the expertise of the Dickens Decoders – volunteers from across the world with an interest in puzzles and codes – was just as important. The efforts of the Dickens Decoders, combined with contextual research by academics, has enabled crowd-created transcription of two of Dickens' mysterious shorthand texts. The ongoing process of decoding Dickens' shorthand corpus offers new insight into his sources and creative process. Ultimately, it may even bring original Dickens material into the public domain.</p>