Scholarly and Scientific Communications in the Digital Age is a new course for graduate students across the disciplines interested in the ways that digitization influences research, writing, publication, and academic career development. The course is historical, theoretical, and practical. It is designed to provide up-to-date information and resources showing how academic work is changing in accord with the digital transformation of communications in all fields.

Students will learn what the digital transformation can mean for graduate studies and academic work and careers, in particular: 1) What we are discovering about today’s “information behavior” among scholars and scientists; 2) Ways to capitalize on new publishing formats and opportunities; and 3) How to prepare for new routines of academic evaluation in hiring, promotion, and tenure, including attention to emerging measures for the impact of old and new forms of academic inquiry.

The course will begin with history, from the transformation of scholarly and scientific practices as they developed with the spread of print to the uses of ubiquitous screens today. Our interest will not be antiquarian but practical. That is, how have the material circumstances of scholarship and science produced features of our own time? The course will feature these topics:

- Print vs. Screens
- Information Overload, Search, and Bookmarking
- Networked Collaboration, Research, and Writing
- Open Access and Peer Review
- The Re-Imagined Journal and the Fate of the Monograph
- Multi-media and Enhanced Publication
- Social Media and Altmetrics

We will rely on readings from work in information science, scholarly publishing, higher education, cognitive psychology, Internet and new media studies, disciplinary history, and more. Websites featuring resources on faculty work, publishing practices, and digital experiments will complement the texts.

The class will be offered in a hybrid format, with online work complemented by monthly classroom sessions. Assignments will include activities designed to provide timely and useable resources for digital distribution in cooperation with the MSU Graduate School and Library.

For more information about the course contact the instructor: weiland@msu.edu; 517-355-2395