



**NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES**

Division of Preservation and Access
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Applying to NEH's Division of Preservation and Access

How are applications to the division evaluated?

Peer reviewers with relevant expertise will read your application and advise the agency about its merits. NEH staff comments on matters of fact or on significant issues that otherwise would be missing from these reviews, then makes recommendations to the National Council on the Humanities. The National Council meets at various times during the year to advise the NEH chairman on grants. The chairman takes into account the advice provided by the review process and, by law, makes all funding decisions.

Who are the peer reviewers?

They are a mix of scholars and curators who can assess the humanities significance; methodology experts, such as conservators, archivists, librarians, and digital specialists; and administrators of cultural repositories.

What are reviewers looking for in your application?

This varies according to the grant program, but in general, peer reviewers are asked to apply the following criteria in assessing applications:

- the project's significance for supporting scholarly research, education, or public programming in the humanities;
- the soundness of the proposed methodology;
- the viability, efficiency, and productivity of the project, as indicated by the work plan;
- the qualifications of the project's staff;
- the quality of the project's plans for disseminating information about and providing access to grant products; and
- the reasonableness of the proposed budget in relation to anticipated results.

The rating scale used by peer reviewers is: Excellent, Very Good, Good, Some Merit, and Not Competitive.

General Application Tips

- Read the guidelines, FAQs, and sample proposals for the specific grant program, available at: www.neh.gov/grants.
- Speak with a program officer about your project and confirm eligibility.
- No later than six weeks before the deadline, submit a draft of the application. (Drafts are not accepted for Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions.)
- Place particular emphasis on the discussion of your project's humanities content.
- Write for a general audience, avoiding unnecessary professional jargon.
- Include all vital information within the proposal narrative; use the appendices for supporting documentation only.
- If turned down, ask for the peer reviewers' comments and consider reapplying.