



Humanities Collection and Reference Resources

Application Deadline: July 19, 2012, for projects beginning May, 2013

Grants of up to \$350,000 are available for projects of up to three years in length to preserve and make accessible collections of books, journals, manuscript and archival materials, maps, still and moving images, oral histories, recorded sound, and objects of material culture. Awards also support projects to create reference materials, such as encyclopedias, historical dictionaries, and databases.

Activities that can be supported through an HCRR grant include:

- arranging and describing archival and manuscript collections;
- cataloging collections of printed works, photographs, recorded sound, moving images, art, and material culture;
- providing conservation treatment (including deacidification) for collections, leading to enhanced access;
- digitizing collections;
- preserving and improving access to born-digital sources;
- developing databases, virtual collections, or other electronic resources to codify information on a subject or to provide integrated access to selected humanities materials;
- creating encyclopedias;
- preparing linguistic tools, such as historical and etymological dictionaries, corpora, and reference grammars (separate funding is available for endangered language projects in partnership with the National Science Foundation);
- developing tools for spatial analysis and representation of humanities data, such as atlases and geographic information systems (GIS); and
- designing digital tools to facilitate use of humanities resources.

Because ensuring the longevity of humanities sources is critical to enabling their ongoing use, applicants may request support for implementing preservation measures, such as reformatting (including microfilming), rehousing, or item-level stabilization procedures, in the context of projects that also create or enhance access to humanities collections.

Studies of cultural heritage repositories have cited sound recordings and moving images as formats that are seriously endangered. This grant program encourages applications that address the preservation and access needs of such sources. Applicants may request funds to establish intellectual and physical control of such materials as well as to digitize them.

Eligibility:

U.S. nonprofit organizations are eligible, as are state and local governmental agencies and federally recognized Indian tribal governments. Individuals are not eligible to apply.

NEH generally does not award grants to other federal entities or to applicants whose projects are so closely intertwined with a federal entity that the project takes on characteristics of the federal entity's own authorized activities. This does not preclude applicants from using grant funds from, or sites and materials controlled by, other federal entities in their projects.

Submission of Applications:

All applications to the NEH must be submitted electronically through Grants.gov, the government-wide grants portal. More information is available about grants.gov on NEH's Web site: (www.neh.gov). Advance consultation with program staff is strongly advised. Also, staff will read and comment on drafts if received at least six weeks prior to the submission deadline. See application guidelines on the NEH Web site for further details.

Examples of recently-funded projects:

CUNY Research Foundation, Brooklyn College, Brooklyn, NY – To support the arrangement, description, and rehousing of the Hank Kaplan collection, consisting of books, photographs, newspaper clippings, and audio and video tapes, as well as scrapbooks, correspondence, and other materials documenting the history of American and British prizefighting.

Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, DC – To support the cataloging of 18,000 volumes of the works of William Shakespeare, from the 16th to the 21st century, along with the deacidification of 3,000 of these.

Massillon Public Library, Massillon, OH – To support the transcription, cataloging, and digitization of approximately 9,000 pages of the papers of the family of Thomas Rotch (1767-1823), a Quaker businessman and farmer active in reform movements in New England and Ohio.

New York Public Library – To support the digitization of a collection of 9,500 historical maps of New York City, dating from 1851 to 1922, and creation of related geographical information to be used with Geographic Information Systems (GIS) tools.

ONE Institute/International Gay and Lesbian Archives, West Hollywood, CA – To support the arrangement and description of 647 linear feet of the institutional and organizational records, personal papers, and research files of the founders and pioneers of the modern lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender movement in the United States.

Smith College, Northampton, MA – To support the arrangement and description of nine manuscript collections totaling 670 linear feet documenting the history of 20th century women's social and political activism.

University of Cincinnati – To support the digitization of 50,000 pages of correspondence and accompanying materials, along with 1,000 images, from the papers of Albert Sabin, developer of the oral polio vaccine.

University of Massachusetts – To support the digitization of 169 linear feet of text and image materials on the life of African American intellectual W.E.B. Du Bois.

University of Michigan – To support the creation of a digital collection of 50,000 primary sources, with contextual essays, on the 1918-19 influenza epidemic.

University of Virginia – To support the digitization of 12,480 film clips and 20,000 pages of broadcast scripts of local news coverage by WLSL TV in Roanoke, Virginia, for the period 1951-71.

University of Wisconsin – To support preparation of the last volume and the updated online edition of the "Dictionary of American Regional English" (DARE), which documents geographical differences in the vocabulary, pronunciation, and morphology of American English.