



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

Humanities

DIVISION OF PRESERVATION AND ACCESS

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.

HCRR Foundations

To help in the formative stages of initiatives to preserve and create access to humanities collections or to produce reference resources, grants of up to \$40,000 will support planning, assessment, and pilot activities that incorporate expertise from a mix of professional domains. Drawing upon the cooperation of humanities scholars and technical specialists, these projects might encompass efforts to prepare for establishing intellectual control of collections, to solidify collaborative frameworks and strategic plans for complex digital reference resources, or to produce preliminary versions of online collections or resources.

Foundations grants may be used to address one or a combination of the following activities:

- analyzing and evaluating the humanities content strengths, intellectual control requirements, and preservation needs of significant humanities collections (including the development and distribution of collection-level descriptive information);
- identifying and prioritizing humanities materials for digitization, developing project-specific selection criteria, evaluating technical requirements for digital preservation and access, reformatting test-bed items, and/or exploring third-party service arrangements;
- developing plans and protocols for ensuring the preservation of previously digitized or born-digital humanities content, which could include preliminary testing and evaluation of institutional and/or distributed digital repository systems; or
- creating editorial plans, locating and assembling resources, devising strategies for technological and programmatic sustainability, and producing content exemplars for reference resources such as encyclopedias, databases, virtual archives, etymological dictionaries, or online atlases.

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.