



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

Humanities & Illinois

Between 2008 and 2012, institutions and individuals in Illinois received \$36 million from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Illinois Humanities Council for projects that explore the human endeavor and preserve our cultural heritage. Below are some examples.

- **The Papers of Abraham Lincoln** are being digitized by the Illinois Historic Preservation Society with \$370,000 in grants to make them freely accessible online by 2015.
- The one-hundredth anniversary of architect and urban planner **Daniel Burnham's 1909 Plan of Chicago** was the reason for \$299,000 in grants to produce a 60-minute television documentary, an online and panel exhibition, and the Virtual Burnham Initiative—a multimedia online resource that transformed a selection of flat images from the 1909 Plan of Chicago into 3-D models accessible through the website.
- With the fall of the Qing Dynasty, the ancient Buddhist Cave Temples of Xiantangshan were plundered. In 2010, after a painstaking global search to find and scan these far-flung works of art, the temples' contents were digitally reunited and made viewable in situ at the **Smart Museum of the University of Chicago**, assisted by grants totaling \$310,000.
- It is known that in his earlier days Abraham Lincoln wrote vitriolic articles under the cover of anonymity, but now, with the support of a \$57,000 grant, the **Abraham Lincoln Library Foundation** is working to develop a systematic linguistic test to confirm which ones were indeed authored by the future president.
- Between 2010 and 2012, thirty libraries across the state received \$2,500 each to hold reading, viewing, and discussion programs about the NEH-supported documentary and biography **Louisa May Alcott: The Woman Behind Little Women**.
- With a \$65,000 grant, the **Society of Architectural Historians** in Chicago plans to develop an image archive, an online journal, and an online encyclopedia, all devoted to peer-reviewed work on American architectural history.
- Two hundred thousand pages of historic newspapers, such as the *Chicago Eagle* and the *Day Book*, from 1860 to 1922 are being digitized at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, with the support of \$1 million in grants since 2009. This work is part of **Chronicling America**, an NEH collaboration with the Library of Congress.
- In recent summers, grants totaling \$760,000 have brought more than 400 schoolteachers to Springfield for weeklong workshops titled "**Abraham Lincoln and the Forging of Modern America.**"
- **The Odyssey Project** offers a college-level course in the humanities to individuals living at or near the poverty line. A program of the Illinois Humanities Council, it draws faculty from the University of Chicago and other area colleges.
- Illinois's **Meaning of Service** program works with thousands of young people to help them understand the nature and rewards of volunteerism. The program is active in eight AmeriCorps sites in Illinois and is expanding to seven more states.



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

Humanities Nationwide

NEH supports programs and projects that contribute directly and dramatically to the cultural life and historical perspective of tens of millions of Americans. Here are a few examples.

PRESERVING THE FIRST DRAFT OF HISTORY

Nothing captures the character of a community or the spirit of an era better than its newspapers. *Chronicling America*, a partnership between NEH and the Library of Congress, is digitizing millions of pages taken from newspapers dating back to the early Republic, making it possible to search the pages online for any word or phrase—at no charge.

AMERICAN VOICES

The papers of prominent Americans are a vital part of our cultural heritage, and NEH funds many projects to assemble and preserve them, including complete sets of collected papers for ten presidents from Washington to Lincoln to Eisenhower as well as public figures such as Thomas Edison, Martin Luther King Jr., George Marshall, Emily Dickinson, Walt Whitman, and Mark Twain.

SUCCEEDING BY THE BOOK

Over the past forty-five years, scholars supported by Endowment grants have produced more than 7,000 books—including numerous classics such as Dumas Malone's *Jefferson and His Time*, James McPherson's *Battle Cry of Freedom*, and Louis Menand's *The Metaphysical Club: A Story of Ideas in America*—that have garnered scores of awards, including eighteen Pulitzer Prizes.

PAST AND PRESENT IN PIXELS

NEH investments in the digital humanities make it possible for a student to walk the corridors of the Temple of Karnak in ancient Egypt in virtual 3-D, or to visit the 1964–65 World's Fair held in New York. Spectral imaging has been used to create an online critical edition of explorer David Livingstone's previously unreadable field diary.

GENERATING PRIVATE SUPPORT

Almost \$2 billion in humanities support has been generated by the Challenge Grants program, which requires recipients to raise \$3 or \$4 in outside funds for every federal dollar they receive.

HISTORY ON SCREEN AND IN TOWN

NEH-supported films, grounded in scholarly research, bring history alive. For example, twenty million Americans watched Ken Burns's seven-part *The War* (2007), and ten million saw *The Abolitionists* (2013). NEH also funds hundreds of exhibitions—not only blockbusters such as "King Tut" that make the wonders and heritage of other cultures accessible to the American public, but also smaller projects such as *Lincoln, the Constitution, and the Civil War* that reach classrooms across the country.

KEEPING TEACHERS UP-TO-DATE

Seminars, institutes, and workshops give teachers the opportunity to refresh and deepen their knowledge about the humanities through intense study. In the past three years, more than 2,100 college teachers and 7,500 schoolteachers have participated in NEH-supported programs, to the benefit of more than one million students.

REACHING ACROSS THE NATION

Last year, state humanities councils, NEH's affiliates in the fifty states, the District of Columbia and five U.S. territories put on 16,800 reading and discussion programs, 6,500 literacy programs, 4,000 speakers bureau presentations, 5,400 conferences, 1,750 Chautauqua events, 24,000 media programs, and 7,300 technology, preservation, and local history events. The 56 councils also sponsored 2,300 exhibitions.