



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

Humanities

DIVISION OF PRESERVATION AND ACCESS

Preservation and Access Research and Development

Application Deadline: **May 1, 2014** for projects beginning January, 2015.

Grants of up to \$350,000 for projects of up to three years in length are available to address major challenges in preserving or providing access to humanities collections and resources. Projects that focus on one of three special interest areas (see below) are eligible to request up to \$400,000. Grant guidelines are located at:

<http://www.neh.gov/grants/preservation/preservation-and-access-research-and-development>.

Research and Development projects address challenges that include the need to find better ways to preserve materials of critical importance to the nation's cultural heritage – from fragile artifacts and manuscripts to analog recordings and digital assets subject to technological obsolescence – and to develop advanced modes of searching, discovering, and using such materials.

Eligible projects include:

- the development of technical standards, best practices, and tools for preserving and creating access to humanities collections;
- the exploration of more effective scientific and technical methods of preserving humanities collections;
- the development of automated procedures and computational tools to integrate, analyze, and repurpose humanities data in disparate online resources; and
- the investigation and testing of new ways of providing digital access to humanities materials that are not easily digitized using current methods.

NEH especially encourages applications in one or more of the following **three areas of special interest**:

- **Digital Preservation:** how to preserve digital humanities materials, including born-digital materials;
- **Recorded Sound and Moving Image Collections:** how to preserve and increase access to the record of the 20th century contained in these formats; and
- **Preventive Conservation:** how to protect humanities collections and slow their deterioration through the use of sustainable preservation strategies.

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:

Applications for this program must be submitted via [Grants.gov](https://www.Grants.gov). Before using [Grants.gov](https://www.Grants.gov) for the first time, each organization must register with the website to create an institutional profile. Further information on the grant submission process may be found at: www.neh.gov/manage.

Examples of Recently-Funded Projects:

WGBH Educational Foundation – A project to support the development of a comprehensive, open-source digital asset management system for moving image and audio humanities collections.

Wheaton College – A project to support the development of computational tools and documentation for applying advanced statistical methods to textual and literary problems.

University of South Carolina – A project to support the creation of a one-pass system to capture accurately both image and sound in digital scanning.

University of Virginia – A project to support the development of an automated tool for deriving contextual information from archival finding aids, enhancing the information by matching it with established authority records, and enabling links to multiple primary and secondary humanities sources.

Rochester Institute of Technology – A project to support the investigation of the impact on paper-based collections of short-term fluctuations in environmental conditions resulting from the dynamic management, through temporary setbacks and shutoffs, of climate control systems.

Educopia Institute – A project to support the study, documentation, and modeling of distributed digital preservation frameworks to preserve digitized and born-digital newspaper collections.

New York Public Library – A project to support the investigation of best practices for monitoring, evaluating, and optimizing environmental storage conditions in cultural repositories.

Indiana University, Indianapolis – A project to support the development of a prototype tool to explore and visualize geospatial data in the humanities using as a test bed a preexisting interactive Web mapping site on religious adherence in the United States in the 20th century.

A Few Tips on Applying to Research and Development:

- Staff will read and provide feedback on drafts if received at least **six weeks prior to the submission deadline**. Please email inquiries to preservation@neh.gov.
- A key evaluation criterion is the sustainability of project deliverables and datasets. Make sure to describe thoroughly your plan for the long-term preservation of these items, including any scientific, statistical, or survey results, as well as any plans for additional project phases if necessary.
- For projects that lead to the development of digital tools, software, and websites, all other considerations being equal, NEH gives preference to those that provide free public access.
- Collaboration is a hallmark of Research and Development projects, especially those that bring together humanities professionals, preservation or technical experts, and research scientists. Make sure to clarify the roles and responsibilities for all participating institutions and primary staff members.