Research and Development 2015 Webinar

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

Division of Preservation and Access (DPA): Activities We Fund

- Increase access and intellectual control through cataloging, arranging, and describing (e.g., art and architecture collections, artist studios, archives)

- Extend the life of collections, through conservation treatment, reformatting, and rehousing

- Digitization!

- Develop databases, spatial tools, and reference resources

- Planning and assessments for care of collections

- Sustainable solutions for preventive conservation of large and diverse holdings in cultural institutions

History of Research and Development

- One of our oldest programs: Over three decades!

- Originally served specialized conservation researchers

- As field evolved, expanded to include preservation professionals of all types

- 2014: intensive review

- Needs of the field are changing: new formats, scalability, sustainability

- Primary objective: Advance R&D specific to cultural heritage community

Research and Development

- Deadline: June 25, 2015

- Address major challenges in preserving and providing access to cultural heritage collections

- Development of standards, best practices, methodologies, and workflows

- Applied research

- Two Tiers of funding

Two Funding Tiers: Tier I

- Up to $75,000 for up to 2 years

- Eligible project types (not comprehensive)

  - Planning and preliminary work for large-scale research and development projects

  - Stand-alone basic research projects such as experiments, case studies, surveys

  - Iterative tool and platform development

  - Terrific for graduate and postdoctoral training and experience

Two Funding Tiers: Tier II

- Up to $350,000 for up to 3 years

  - Development of standards, practices, methodologies, or workflows for preserving and creating access to humanities collections

  - Applied research

  - Keep in mind: Project should begin not with wanting to develop a tool, but wanting to solve problem or question widely shared in the field. Tool development may be one component of the project.
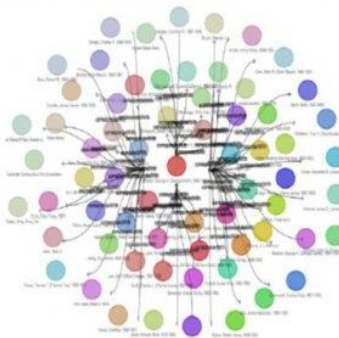
Two Funding Tiers: Tier II

- Dissemination

    - Key component to successful development of standards, practices, methodologies, workflows

    - Maintaining blog or periodic social media blasts probably not enough; white paper no longer required

    - Mandatory 1-2 page appendix

    - Demonstrate understanding of how to reach community effectively

    - Plan should match scope and needs in the field: Workshops and training? Educational modules? Widely distributed publications? Code sprints? Conference? Acceptance by regulatory body?

    - Creativity encouraged!

Research and Development

Interdisciplinary collaborative project teams encouraged: Humanities practitioners and the Sciences

- Information

- Computer

- Natural

- Conservation

Investigation of Cellulose Nitrate Motion Picture Film Chemical Decomposition & Associated Fire Risk

University of Wisconsin, Madison

(PR-50141-12)

http://old.wcftr.commarts.wisc.edu/about/news.html

Ineligible Activities

- Creation or support of a hosted service
  - See Office of Digital Humanities Implementation program

- Interpretative humanities research
  - See Collaborative Research Program

- "Projects primarily directed at enhancing the preservation of and access to a specific collection or the holdings of a specific institution…[or] a reference resource"

Humanities Collections and Reference Resources (HCRR)

- arrange, describe, catalog collections
- digitize collections
- preserve and improve access to born-digital sources
- develop databases, virtual collections, or other digital resources
- create encyclopedias; prepare linguistic tools
- develop tools for spatial analysis
- design digital tools to facilitate use of humanities resources

R&D vs. HCRR

R&D

- Prioritize collection as test bed
- Audience: Interested in contributing to community of practice
- Project team: Reflects needs of the field
- Dissemination: Training, publications, adoption
- June 25 deadline

HCRR

- Collection/resource *is* the priority
- Audience: Interested in users of content
- Project team: Collaboration reflects needs of collection
- Dissemination: Outreach to users (scholars, educators, students, public)
- July 21 deadline

Expansive Opportunities

Collection and Format Types

- archaeological and ethnographic artifacts
- architectural and cartographic records
- archives
- art and visual culture
- books, manuscripts, and special collections
- digital media
- geospatial information
- language materials
- material culture
- moving image and sound recordings
- news media
- prints and photographs
- research databases
- software
- time-based media and born-digital art
- web, social media, and e-mail

Research Fields and Topics

- accessibility for the disabled
- appraisal and selection
- cataloging and description
- digital forensics
- digital preservation
- disaster preparedness and emergency response
- humanities research data management and curation
- indigenous cultural heritage practices
- knowledge organization
- linked open data
- material analysis
- metrics for evaluating use of humanities materials
- preventive conservation
- textual encoding
- visualization

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Strategies to Keep in Mind

- Make (raw) data available whenever possible
- Open source – but how "open"?
- Define your audience of practitioners and eventual humanities users as specifically as possible
- Demonstrate knowledge of other relevant work in the field
- Strategic interdisciplinarity
- Use advisory committees wisely
- Demonstrate technical/scientific proficiency but avoid loading narrative with too much jargon
- Outline plan for sustainability, i.e. future project phases?
- **Significance to the work of the humanities – research, scholarship, education, public programming

THANK YOU!

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