NEH Application Cover Sheet
Digital Humanities Start-Up Grants

PROJECT DIRECTOR

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Field of Expertise: Arts: History and Criticism - Music

INSTITUTION

Norrth Carolina Central Univesity
Durham, NC

APPLICATION INFORMATION

Title: *Training to Establish the North Carolina Central University/African American Jazz Caucus Jazz Research Institute Digital Library*

Grant Period: From 5/2007 to 11/2008

Field of Project: Arts: History and Criticism - Music

Description of Project: The development of a Jazz Research Digital Library is of great significance in the preservation and documentation of perhaps America's greatest cultural contribution to the world. Jazz is considered America's true "classical" music, a genre created and developed by African American musicians. The jazz art form is in crisis mode. Increasingly larger numbers of African American youth are not exposed to jazz and have no knowledge of its significance to their heritage. One of our objectives is to restore jazz to its rightful place of cultural importance in the African American community, particularly the youth. The youth of today are our performers, critics, authors, historians, and listening audiences of the future and action must be taken to preserve and provide access to jazz resources for our youth. We will seek to address this dilemma by creating a Jazz Research Institute which will comprise several components but will initially focus on the Jazz digital Library. Realistically, the Ja

BUDGET

Outright Request	$30,000.00	**Cost Sharing**	$0.00
Matching Request	$0.00	**Total Budget**	$30,000.00
Total NEH	$30,000.00		

GRANT ADMINISTRATOR

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Statement of significance and impact

The development of the NCCU/AAJC Jazz Research Digital Library is of great significance in the preservation and documentation of perhaps America's greatest cultural contribution to the world. Jazz is considered America's true "classical music", a genre created and developed by African American musicians. The Jazz art form is in crisis mode. Increasingly larger numbers of African American youth are not exposed to Jazz and have no knowledge of its significance to their heritage. This pool of potential jazz enthusiasts is steadily shrinking. One of our objectives is to restore Jazz to its rightful place of cultural importance in the African American community, particularly the youth. The youth of today are our performers, critics, authors, historians, and listening audiences of the future and action must be taken to preserve and provide access to jazz studies and resources for our youth. The African American Jazz Caucus, (AAJC), an affiliate of the International Association of Jazz Educators (IAJE), and the Department of Music are planning to establish the NCCU/AAJC Jazz Research Institute (NAJRI). We will seek to address this dilemma by creating a Jazz Research Institute which will comprise several components but will initially focus on The North Carolina Jazz Hall of Fame, a Legacy Program, an Annual Summer Jazz Festival/HBCU Summit, and the Jazz Digital Library. The Digital Library has the largest potential for global outreach in terms of providing access to jazz resources. Complete technology in digital preservation of collections does not exist on our campus although steps have begun in the School of Library and Information Sciences. Subsequently, staff training is needed to develop expertise in sound, print, and film/video digitization. Presently, two faculty members in the School of Library and Information Sciences have received training from Cornell University, the premier institution in developing digital collections, to recruit minorities to the field. They will develop a digital librarian curriculum for their graduate students who can assist our department as interns in scanning, web design, etc.. Our greatest need is training for current librarians and staff, particularly the music librarian who is housed in the Music Department but is under the umbrella of the university's Shepard Library. Our newly appointed Director of Library Services is supportive of the Library/Music Department collaboration and welcomes the development of staff in this area. It is important that we not only keep pace with current technology, but contribute to digital collections in innovative, interactive approaches to documenting collections.

Digital technology will no doubt become standard in the library information sector. As we provide access to jazz studies to educate and restore cultural significance, we must also provide the latest technology in deliveries of instruction. The impact of a digital library will extend beyond the university but will maintain current university initiatives and goals: 1) the development of a digital music library office on campus to create digital collections in jazz; 2) the preservation of collections that have been committed to the Department of Music; 3) the development of a digital music library training center in North Carolina for small colleges and universities and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU's); 4) the provision of digital resources for distance learning classes in jazz, and expansion to other disciplines; 5) courses and/or certification in music/arts digital preservation. The digital library's impact would link several departments on campus in an interdisciplinary approach in which the cohesiveness of working together will be extremely meaningful to students. The impact of a digital library on our students will provide exposure to a new field of study. Many music students will not have careers as performers, but exposure to digital preservation may allow them to find other paths within the realm of musical expression such as music librarianship.

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Project Participants
Principal participants in bold

Alexander, Jim

Jazz Photographer
Atlanta, Georgia

Dutta, Gouri

Catalogue Director, Shepard Library
North Carolina Central University

Faison, Vernice

Music Librarian
North Carolina Central University

Fennell, Stephanie

Library Staff
North Carolina Central University

Harrell, Dr. Paula

Project Director
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North Carolina Central University
Durham, NC

McCullers, Denine

Administrative Assistant
Department of Music
North Carolina Central University

Owens, Dr. Irene

Dean, School of Library and
Information Sciences
North Carolina Central University

Reiger, Oya

Digital Consulting and Production
Services (DCAPS)
Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

Revels, Ira

Digital Projects Librarian
Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

Shields, Dr. Theodosia

Director of Shepard Library
North Carolina Central University

Yoo, Dr. Eun-Young

Assistant Professor, School of
Library and Information Sciences
North Carolina Central University

Narrative

Training to Establish the North Carolina Central University/African American Jazz Caucus
Jazz Research Institute Digital Library

<u>Enhancing the humanities through the use of emerging technologies</u>

The Department of Music requests support to preserve the legacies of jazz artists through the development of the **NCCU/AAJC Jazz Research Institute Digital Library** by training current staff in digital collections and resources. Our department has established a collaboration with The African American Jazz Caucus, (AAJC), an affiliate of the International Association of Jazz Educators (IAJE), to establish the NCCU/AAJC Jazz Research Institute (NAJRI). This effort, led by the Department of Music, is an university-wide interdisciplinary effort in which several departments are committed: English and Mass Communications will assist in writing biographies and producing film documentaries; History will aid in researching biographies; The School of Law will advise procedures for copyrights, permissions; Art will provide graphic and web production; WNCU Jazz Radio Station will provide artist interviews; The School of Library and Information Sciences (SLIS) will aid with direction in digital training and resources. Other departments have also committed. The Institute is in the planning stages and will have several components, one of which is the Jazz Research Digital Library. Our first Annual Jazz Summit is planned for June 20-24, 2007 and plans to develop digital jazz collections will be announced at this meeting.

The Jazz Research Digital Library will be the centerpiece and foundation of the Institute. It is our goal that this library will be one of the most comprehensive digital depositories available to the public. It will be the only Jazz Research Library housed at a Historically Black College and University. Rutgers University is considered the leading jazz research center in the world.

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They boast tremendous collections of music, books, recordings, memorabilia, photographs and instruments and have begun developing digital collections. Because of their space limitations, The Jazz Institute at Rutgers has agreed to work with NCCU/AAJC in developing our collections. NCCU presently has facility limitations but is in the process of planning a performing arts complex which will house the future Jazz Research Institute and library.

Appropriate to the discipline of music, our proposed digital collection will not only contain photographs and biographies, but the inclusion of video clips of oral histories, historic film, and sound clips of recordings. These formats, particularly the oral histories, will come from artist managers, valets, personal service providers, and family members, etc.. Oral histories will offer a wealth of information and an additional perspective of jazz artists that is not available in other libraries. We are negotiating for acquisition of a personal historic jazz film collection, jazz artist's papers, and jazz photograph collection that will need immediate digital preservation.

The development of a Jazz Research Digital Library is of great significance in the preservation and approach to documenting perhaps America's greatest cultural contribution to the world. Jazz is considered America's true "classical music", a genre created and developed by African American musicians. The jazz art form is in crisis mode. Increasingly larger numbers of African American youth are not exposed to jazz and have no knowledge of its significance to their heritage. This pool of potential jazz enthusiasts is steadily shrinking. One of our objectives is to restore jazz to its rightful place of cultural importance in the African American community, particularly the youth. The youth of today are our performers, critics, authors, historians, and listening audiences of the future and action must be taken to preserve and provide access to jazz studies and resources for our youth.

The collaboration between NCCU and AAJC seeks to address this dilemma by creating a Jazz Research Institute which will comprise several components but will initially focus on The North Carolina Jazz Hall of Fame, a Legacy Program, an Annual Summer Jazz Festival/Summit, and the Jazz Digital Library. The Digital Library has the largest potential for global outreach in terms of providing access to jazz resources. Complete technology in digital preservation of collections does not exist on our campus although steps have begun in the School of Library and Information Sciences. Subsequently, staff training is needed to develop expertise in sound, print, and film/video digitization. Presently, a professor and graduate student in the School of Library and Information Sciences have received training from Cornell University, the premier institution in developing digital collections, to recruit minorities to the field. They will develop a digital librarian curriculum for their graduate students who can assist our department as digital music interns in scanning, web design, and other areas that would otherwise be contracted. Our greatest need is training for current librarians and staff, particularly the music librarian who is housed in the Music Department but is under the auspices of the university's Shepard Library. Our newly appointed Director of Library Services at Shepard Library, Dr. Theodosia Shields, is supportive of the Library/Music Department collaboration and welcomes the development of staff in this area. Dr. Shields has stated that the Library will participate in future digital opportunities. It is important that we not only keep pace with current technology, but contribute to digital collections in innovative, interactive approaches to documenting collections.

We seek to train three NCCU staff members in digital preservation: the current music librarian, a cataloguer from the main Shepard Library on campus, and a staff person. Digitization training in sound, film/video, and photograph/print is needed, but emphasis will begin with photographic and sound digitizing. Acquisition of basic equipment is requested: a dedicated

computer/printer/scanner and supporting materials. The School of Library and Information Sciences recently received a license for the CONTENTdm software (for delivery to the web) that was supported by a previous grant written by Dr. Eun-Young Yoo. Dr. Yoo will allow the Department of Music to use one of the CONTENTdm stations to access our digital collection of Jazz heritage materials and DiMeMa will host the server for the SLIS. We will also investigate other options for training. In the spring of 2007, the HBCU Library Alliance will make a call for participation to HBCU Library directors for the purpose of providing access to HBCU cultural heritage materials. We will have the option of partnering with the Alliance to host our materials as well.

History and duration of the project

North Carolina Central University was the first university in the state of North Carolina to offer the B.M. degree in Jazz in 1971. The program has developed into one of the top jazz studies programs in the country. The program has received numerous invitations for performances. They have performed twice at the Montreux Jazz Festival in Switzerland, Euro Disney in Paris, two performances at the White House, in which one was a command performance for President William Clinton. The annual HBCU All Star Jazz Band, founded by the AAJC/IAJE, is a 20 seat big band made up of the most outstanding players from all HBCU's. These students are selected by blind audition and our jazz ensembles consistently win more seats than any other HBCU. Last year, 12 of our students were selected for this prestigious band and 10 were selected this year. At the IAJE conference venue, the reputation of excellence of the NCCU Department of Music was solidified which led to contact by members of the AAJC for collaboration to establish the Jazz Research Institute. With the addition of the Jazz Research

Digital Library in our department, the jazz performance and academic tracks will be strengthened and the goal to establish graduate degree programs will be attainable.

Digital Librarianship Initiatives at NCCU's School of Library and Information Sciences

North Carolina Central University's School of Library and Information Sciences (NCCU-SLIS) is the only program of its kind in an historically black college or university (HBCU). NCCU-SLIS is a progressive program which is already attracting external funding to enhance its program. An Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) grant was secured from the Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program in the amount of $756,142. A faculty member (Dr. Eun-Young Yoo) has secured a min-grant ($20,177) from the Academic Affairs Department to begin a Digital Librarianship course in the spring semester of 2007. This introductory course will begin the process of establishing an 18-hour specialization in Digital Librarianship (beyond the Master's Degree) within the School of Library and Information Sciences. The Digital Libraries mini-grant has already enabled the school to provide training in the use of software and related materials for the faculty member receiving the grant, the librarian of the School of Library and Information Sciences, and a student. Further interest in Digital Librarianship will be afforded to the university community and beyond with the presentation of a Digital Librarianship Conference at NCCU in April of 2007. There is a strategic plan to continue this conference on an annual basis.

Planning for the NCCU/AAJC Jazz Research Digital Library

As evidenced by the HBCU Library Alliance website, only two HBCU's in North Carolina were included in the first round of digital training provided by the HBCU-CUL Digitization Initiative: Fayetteville State University and Johnson C. Smith University. The Department of Music at NCCU is eager to begin this digital initiative. The NCCU Director of Library Services will apply for the second round of training and assistance in the spring 2007 semester.

Preliminary planning of the NCCU/AAJC Jazz Research Digital Library has begun to outline the initial steps to be taken to implement this project. Contacts regarding budget and project planning have been made with Cornell University's **Oya Rei**ger, Director of Media Group and DCAPS; **Ira Revels**, Digital Projects Librarian at Cornell University and Director of the HBCU-CUL Digitization Initiative; and NCCU SLIS faculty member, Dr. Pauletta Bracy on the Board of Directors of the HBCU Library Alliance. Ongoing consultation will be needed throughout the development of the jazz digital library. The projected timeline for initial training, consultation and projects will be 18 months.

Currently, there are two SLIS persons on campus that received digital preservation training in October 2006, Dr. Eun-Young Yoo and a graduate student, Jamie Bradway. We do not have any staff at Shepard Library that has had digital training. As training for the three NCCU librarians develops throughout the 18 month time frame, their initial digital training project will be of a photograph collection of jazz photographer, **Jim Alexander** of Atlanta, Georgia. He is a member of the AAJC team and has consented to donate a collection of his photographs for our first digital collection. The collection selected for this project is significant in that it encompasses a historical timeline of 40 years of jazz greats from Duke Ellington to

contemporary jazz artist, Eric Dunn. This prototype collection should produce photographs accompanied by sound clips of the artists. Continuation of activities will continue after the grant cycle and additional funding by external grants will be sought as is the procedure for all Institutes on campus. Digital librarianship affects the university as a whole and mini- grants from internal sources will be sought as well.

Long Range Goals

The start-up grant will develop into a full fledged proposal to NEH to develop innovative digital jazz collections to include digitization of 78's, LP's, cassettes, photos, print, film, and videos of jazz artists, particularly from North Carolina. The objective is to create digital collections of historical and contemporary jazz artist biographies, jazz photographers, with emphasis on all significant jazz affiliates from North Carolina. We project that this collection will be one of the most comprehensive collections in the United States. It is an immediate goal that we will acquire and digitize a historic jazz film collection, and a well-known jazz musician's collection that are currently under negotiation.

It is our ultimate goal that the proposed trained library staff persons can assist in training additional staff within our university library system which will develop into a music and arts digital training center accessible to the community, other HBCU's, and small to mid-size colleges and universities in the geographical Triangle area and state of North Carolina.

Staff

The project director is Paula Harrell, Chair of the Department of Music at NCCU and member of the NCCU planning team for the Jazz Research Institute. The time commitment to

this project will be 25%. Responsibilities will include budget management, and project dissemination of results through presentations at meetings and electronic media. The project director will attend the NEH planning meeting in Washington, D.C..

Administrative Assistant to the Chair, Denine McCullers, will assist in travel coordination, requisitions for travel and equipment purchases. Anticipated time commitment is 10%.

The staff to be trained are **Vernice Faison**, music librarian, **Gouri Dutta**, Catalogue Director at the NCCU Shepard Library, and **Stephanie Fennell**, library staff. This group will receive training from Cornell executives, digitize a photographic and sound project, and be responsible for co-presentations at the NAJRI Jazz Festival/Summit, NCCU SLIC Digital Conference, and appropriate forums on campus for the School of Library Science and Shepard Library. Anticipated time commitment is 40%.

Collaborators will be **Oya Reiger** and the Digital Consulting and Production Services (DCAPS) of Cornell University who will lead the training process in building digital collections and services. Consultant, **Ira Revels** of Cornell University, will be instrumental in helping us determine project production and workflow assistance for the development of our prototype collection. Photographer, **Jim Alexander** will donate a photo collection for training. **Dr. Irene Owens**, Dean of the School of Library and Information Services will collaborate with the Music Department in their Digital Conferences and other digital collection efforts. **Dr. Theodosia Shields**, Director of Shepard Library, will support the project by supplying staff for training and collaborating with the Music Department in their digital efforts with the HBCU Library Alliance.

Methods

Project and workflow planning by the project director and trainees will be led by Ira Revels. Training will consist of terminology, selection for digital conversion, developing an approach to digitization, produce metadata and digital collection, use of CONTENTdm software for web delivery, testing, linking, and updating sites. As mentioned earlier, the CONTENTdm software is available on our campus for shared use with the SLIS. Methods will rely on guidance from Cornell University's DCAPS, the pioneer and premier leader in digital library collections. Other resources will be consulted such as the National Initiative for a Networked Cultural Heritage (NINCH) Complete Guide to Digitization, and the North Carolina Exploring Cultural Heritage Online (NCECHO) Digital Library.

Assessments will be made in three areas: training, implementation, and dissemination of results. An evaluation instrument of targeted and completed learning outcomes will be prepared for each of the before-mentioned areas. Trainers and trainees will be evaluated in three areas: selection for digital conversion, planning the approach for digitization and producing a collection and metadata. Cornell reviewers will evaluate trainees' assigned projects (implementation) during the grant cycle. Following presentations of the final project/prototype at various meetings, evaluation surveys will be distributed and the analysis of results summarized for submission in the final report.

Final Product and Dissemination

The project will be accessible to open source software. Project results will be disseminated via website link to the Music Department, School of Library Science and Shepard Library. Presentations will be made internally to the School of Library and Information Sciences

digital conference, Shepard Library meetings, and the NAJRI Jazz Festival/Summit. Presentations to external organizations will include submissions to the HBCU Library Alliance, the International Association for Jazz Educators annual conference, and musicology forums such as the Center for Black Music Research, the National Association for the Study and Preservation of African American Music (NASPAAM) and the southeast regional College Music Society meeting.

The ultimate long term product of a jazz digital library will be disseminated via a NAJRI website, maintained by Information Technology technicians on campus. New staff positions will be requested to enhance the supporting staff infrastructure.

Work Plan

Prior to the first training, a day long production planning meeting with the project director and three trainees will be directed by Ira Revels. The initial three-day intensive training will be held at Cornell University, which will provide our trainees first hand experience with a digital center. The Cornell University training team will be contracted from their Digital Consulting and Production Services (DCAPS). Training will include terminology, selection for digital conversion, planning the approach to digitization and producing digital collections and metadata. To facilitate continuity of instruction, a concluding three-day training will take place the next month on NCCU's campus where collaborators will continue training and assess and advise on needed facilities and resources. This training will include the use of CONTENTdm, the web delivery software. After trainees become more experienced with the prototype project, Ms. Revels will visit the NCCU site for additional assistance in planning. The remaining grant cycle will be devoted to scanning photographs with accompanying sound clips, and placing them on the website as a prototype digital exhibit to be replicated and enhanced in future grants.