Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need to register to use the repository?

No. Members of the public do not need to register in order to access material published in the Public Reading Room. You may create an account, but this will not grant you access to any additional materials.

When I click on a link, why do I see a message that reads “This community/collection is restricted”?

You likely clicked on a link within the part of the site restricted to NEH internal staff access. While we provide public access to as much material as possible, many NEH records contain private or sensitive information that may not be shared with the general public. You may submit a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to NEH if you are looking for specific records.

Why can’t I find any of the books or films NEH grant funding has supported?

Over 50 years, NEH has supported over 63,000 humanities projects. It is impossible for us to provide long-term preservation of the products of those grants; however, you can find links to many grant products, as well as media coverage and prizes, in our public funded projects database.

Where can I find more information about the history of the NEH?

Only a small portion of NEH records have been digitized and published within the repository. The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) holds additional materials related to the history of the agency; search the NARA catalog to locate these. You may also submit a FOIA request to NEH if you are looking for specific records.

Can I visit NEH headquarters to conduct archival research?

NEH does not maintain a formal archival research center, and most materials are stored off-site. If you cannot find what you need in the NEH Digital Repository, you should search the NARA catalog or submit a FOIA request to NEH.

How can I find an issue of Humanities magazine if I can’t find it in the repository?

Back issue content of Humanities beginning with the January/February 1997 issue through the present is available on the main NEH website. All Humanities content spanning 1969-1985 is available through the repository, with some additional issues through 1999. We hope to eventually include all Humanities content in the repository.