



DIVISION OF PRESERVATION AND ACCESS

Fact Sheet for Applicants

The NEH's Division of Preservation and Access funds projects that preserve and create intellectual access to cultural resources of importance for research, education, and public programming in the humanities.

Categories of support include:

Humanities Collections and Reference Resources

Applicants may define a significant corpus of cultural materials that are important to the humanities and present a plan of work for preservation and access compatible with the nature and condition of the materials and their eventual use. Projects may encompass collections of books, journals, newspapers, manuscript and archival materials, maps, still and moving images, sound recordings, art, and material culture held by libraries, archives, museums, historical organizations, and other repositories. Activities eligible for funding include digitizing collections, preservation reformatting, conservation treatment, deacidification of collections, arranging and describing archival and manuscript collections, and cataloging of print and non-print humanities source materials. Support may also be requested to create databases and electronic archives, descriptive catalogs, dictionaries, encyclopedias, tools for spatial analysis and representation, digital tools designed to develop or use humanities resources, and other types of research tools and reference works.

Beginning in 2012, this category will also support projects involving planning, assessment, and pilot activities pertaining to the scope of the HCRR program.

(Deadline: July 18, 2013 for projects beginning May 2014)

Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections

Newly created in fiscal year 2010, this grant program focuses on preserving humanities collections and it emphasizes sustainable preventive conservation strategies. Grants support planning and implementing preventive conservation measures, which typically include managing relative humidity and temperature levels in collection spaces, providing protective storage enclosures and systems for collections, and safeguarding collections from theft and fire. The program encourages sustainable preservation strategies that are cost effective, energy efficient, and environmentally sensitive and that strive to meet institution-specific preservation goals by mitigating the greatest risks to collections rather than focusing on prescriptive targets. Identifying sustainable strategies requires an understanding of the materials in collections, the performance of the building envelope and systems, the nature of the local climate, the economic costs, and the impact on the environment.

(Deadline: December 3, 2013 for projects beginning September 2014)

Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions

This category has been designed for small and mid-size institutions to enhance their capacity to care for their humanities collections. Grants of up to \$6,000 are available for preservation assessments, consultations with a preservation professional to address a specific preservation problem or to create a disaster response plan, attendance at preservation workshops, and the purchase of basic storage supplies or equipment. *(Deadline: May 1, 2013 for projects beginning January 2014)*

Preservation and Access Research and Development

These grants support projects that address major challenges in preserving or providing access to humanities collections and resources. Challenges 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.

(Deadline: May 1, 2013 for projects beginning January 2014)

Preservation and Access Education and Training

These grants support education and training programs on the preservation and management of, and the creation of intellectual access to, library, archival, and material culture collections. Educational programs that meet national or regional needs may focus on disaster preparedness and response; collections care training; graduate programs in preservation and conservation; the skills and knowledge required to provide or enhance intellectual access to humanities collections; and preservation field services that serve a multi-state region and provide surveys, consultations, workshops, reference services, and informational materials to the staff of institutions responsible for the care of humanities collections.

(Deadline: May 1, 2013 for projects beginning January 2014)

National Digital Newspaper Program

Based on the accomplishments of the United States Newspaper Program (USNP), which supported cataloging and microfilming of the newspapers published in this country since 1690, the division began in 2005 the National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP). Awards to state projects will fund digitization of selected microfilmed titles to provide enhanced access to state newspapers through “Chronicling America,” a digital repository maintained by the Library of Congress.

(Deadline: January 15, 2014 for projects beginning September 2014)

Documenting Endangered Languages

(in collaboration with the National Science Foundation)

Awards are made to conduct fieldwork and other activities relevant to recording, documenting, and archiving endangered languages, including the preparation of lexicons, grammars, text samples, and databases.

(Deadline: September 15, 2013 for projects beginning May 2014)

Guidelines: Application guidelines are available on the NEH web site:

<http://www.neh.gov/grants/grantsbydivision.html>. All applications to the NEH must be submitted electronically through Grants.gov, the government-wide grants portal. The division encourages potential applicants to discuss ideas for preservation and access projects with the division's staff and to confirm a project's eligibility for support well in advance of a deadline. The staff will read draft proposals (except for Preservation Assistance Grants) and comment on the extent to which the narrative and budget contain the information required by evaluators to assess the project's importance and viability. Draft proposals are encouraged at least six weeks before a deadline. Applications are evaluated by scholars in the humanities, professionals with expert knowledge of preservation and access methodologies, and administrators of libraries, archives, and museums.