**Humanities Collection and Reference Resources**

Humanities Collections and Reference Resources (HCRR) grants provide support for projects to preserve and make accessible collections of books, journals, manuscript and archival materials, maps, still and moving images, fine and decorative art, oral histories, recorded sound, and objects of material culture. Awards also support projects to create reference materials, such as encyclopedias, historical dictionaries, and databases.

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| DEADLINE | NOTIFICATION | PROJECTS BEGINNING |
| July 15, 2020 | April 2021 | June 2021 |

*Humanities Collections and Reference Resources* offers two kinds of awards:

**Implementation** **grants** of up to $350,000 are available for projects up to three years in length and may include one or more of the following activities:

* arranging and describing archival and manuscript collections;
* cataloging collections of printed works, photographs, recorded sound, moving images, art, and material culture;
* providing conservation treatment for collections, leading to enhanced access;
* digitizing collections;
* preserving and improving access to born-digital sources, including the updating of existing digital resources;
* creating oral history interview collections about war and military service in conjunction with NEH’s Standing Together initiative
* developing databases, virtual collections, or other electronic resources to codify information on a subject or to provide integrated access to selected humanities materials;
* creating encyclopedias;
* preparing linguistic tools, such as historical and etymological dictionaries, corpora, and reference grammars (separate funding is available for endangered language projects in partnership with the National Science Foundation);
* developing tools for spatial analysis and representation of humanities data, such as atlases and geographic information systems (GIS); and
* designing digital tools to facilitate use of humanities resources.

Because ensuring the longevity of humanities sources is critical to enabling their ongoing use, applicants may request support for implementing preservation measures, such as reformatting (including microfilming), rehousing, or item-level stabilization procedures, in the context of projects that also create or enhance access to humanities collections.

Studies of cultural heritage repositories have cited **sound recordings and moving images** as formats that are seriously endangered. This grant program encourages applications that address the preservation and access needs of such sources. Applicants may request funds to assess or establish physical and intellectual control for such collections as well as to digitize them.

**Foundations grants** help in the formative stages of initiatives to preserve and create access to humanities collections or to produce reference resources, grants of up to $50,000 will support planning, assessment, and pilot activities that incorporate expertise from a mix of professional domains. NEH offers an additional $10,000 to support interinstitutional planning and pilot activities. Drawing upon the cooperation of humanities scholars and technical specialists, these projects might encompass efforts to prepare for establishing intellectual control of collections, to solidify collaborative frameworks and strategic plans for complex digital reference resources, or to produce preliminary versions of online collections or resources.

*Foundations* grants may be used to address one or a combination of the following activities:

* analyzing and evaluating the humanities content strengths, intellectual control requirements, and preservation needs of significant humanities collections (including the development and distribution of collection-level descriptive information);
* identifying and prioritizing humanities materials for digitization, developing project-specific selection criteria, evaluating technical requirements for digital preservation and access, reformatting test-bed items, and/or exploring third-party service arrangements;
* developing plans and protocols for ensuring the preservation of previously digitized or born-digital humanities content, which could include preliminary testing and evaluation of institutional and/or distributed digital repository systems; or
* creating editorial plans, locating and assembling resources, devising strategies for technological and programmatic sustainability, and producing content exemplars for reference resources such as encyclopedias, databases, virtual archives, etymological dictionaries, or online atlases.

**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:**

All applications to the NEH must be submitted electronically through Grants.gov, the government-wide grants portal. More information is available about grants.gov on NEH’s Web site: (www.neh.gov). Advance consultation with program staff is strongly advised. Also, staff will read and comment on drafts if received at least six weeks prior to the submission deadline. Application guidelines and related resources, including sample narratives and frequently asked questions, are available at: <http://www.neh.gov/grants/preservation/humanities-collections-and-reference-resources>