

PRESERVATION & ACCESS

ABOUT

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.

HUMANITIES COLLECTIONS & REFERENCE RESOURCES

This grant program supports the preservation and access of significant corpora of cultural materials that are important to the humanities through the planning and implementation of activities such as digitization, preservation reformatting, conservation treatment, 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. 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.

(Deadline: Mid-July for projects beginning May the following year)
<http://www.neh.gov/grants/preservation/humanities-collections-and-reference-resources>

SUSTAINING CULTURAL HERITAGE COLLECTIONS

This grant program focuses on preserving humanities collections and 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.

(Deadline: Early December for projects beginning September the following year)
<http://www.neh.gov/grants/preservation/sustaining-cultural-heritage-collections>

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: Early May for projects beginning January the following year)

<http://www.neh.gov/grants/preservation/preservation-assistance-grants-smaller-institutions>

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: Late June for projects beginning January the following year)
<http://www.neh.gov/grants/preservation/preservation-and-access-research-and-development>

PRESERVATION & ACCESS

COMMON HERITAGE

America's heritage is preserved in all of our communities, families, and life stories. Recognizing the importance of local history and the need for support to digitize and preserve cultural heritage materials, NEH proudly announces Common Heritage, a new grant program that will support community events to digitize historical materials and public programming to celebrate local histories and identities. Common Heritage recognizes the invaluable contribution of the public, in partnership with libraries, museums, archives, and historical organizations, to our cultural mosaic. Common Heritage grants support community events that deepen appreciation for vital sources of community history.

(Deadline: Mid May for projects beginning January the following year)
<http://www.neh.gov/grants/preservation/common-heritage>

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: Early May for projects beginning January the following year)
<http://www.neh.gov/grants/preservation/preservation-and-access-education-and-training>

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: Mid-January for projects beginning September)
<http://www.neh.gov/grants/preservation/national-digital-newspaper-program>

DOCUMENTING ENDANGERED LANGUAGES

(A PARTNERSHIP 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: Mid-September for projects beginning May the following year)

<http://www.neh.gov/grants/preservation/documenting-endangered-languages>

APPLICATION PROCESS

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.

CONTACT US

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