Preservation & Access Programs at NEH

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Association for Asian Studies
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NEH 101

- National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), an independent federal agency founded in 1965
- Promote excellence in the humanities
- Award grants through national, peer-reviewed programs
- NEH grants typically go to cultural institutions, such as museums, archives, libraries, colleges, universities, public television, and radio stations, and to individual scholars
Because democracy demands wisdom, NEH serves and strengthens our republic by promoting excellence in the humanities and conveying the lessons of history to all Americans.
NEH Total for Grants $108 million (FY2015)

- Special Initiatives & Programs $13.3 million
- Public Programs $13.7 million
- Research $14.7 million
- Preservation & Access $15.4 million
- Digital Humanities $4.4 million
- Federal / State Partnership $42.5 million
- Challenge Grants $8.3 million (matching)
Preservation & Access, or “P&A”
P&A Strategic Priorities

1. Preservation of Sound & Moving Image Materials
2. Digital Preservation
3. Preventive Conservation & Sustainable Preservation
P&A Programs

1. Preservation Assistance Grants
2. Common Heritage
3. Humanities Collections and Reference Resources
4. Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections
5. Education & Training
6. Research & Development
7. National Digital Newspaper Program
8. Documenting Endangered Languages (with NSF).
Preservation Assistance Grants

Deadline: May 2, 2017

- preservation assessment, environmental monitoring, disaster planning, build staff capacity

- awards up to $6,000

Visual communications media
Library (PG-50946-10)

Exploring the human endeavor
Special Initiatives

http://www.neh.gov/commongood
Common Heritage

Deadline: June 2, 2017

Awards: up to $12,000

Support:
- community-focused digitization programs and public programs
- Applicants must be organizations (individuals not eligible)

Competitive grants to support community-based public humanities projects that collect, preserve, and interpret the stories of America’s cultural mosaic.
Common Heritage Examples

SAADA
South Asian American Digital Archive

The WING
Humanities Coll. & Ref. Resources

Deadline: July 20, 2017

- digitization, archives, cataloging, digital tools, reference resources
- two levels:
  - 2-year projects, $50,000
  - 3-year projects, $350,000

Philippine ethnology collections, American Museum of Natural History (PW-50297-09)
The Tibetan Buddhist Canon is one of the three most important canons of Buddhist literature in the world, and hence one of its most important bodies of religious literature. Generally consisting of more than 5,250 texts and 230,000 folio sides, the canon exists in over twenty unique print and manuscript editions. These texts, written in India, Central Asia, China, and elsewhere between the second century BCE and the seventeenth century CE and translated...

Read More

The Kangyur and Tengyur has been edited and reproduced in many variant manuscript and print forms in Tibet. THL provides access to a comparative master catalog, as well as to individual editions. Availability of scanned page images is indicated by the symbol “(p)”; input, searchable electronic texts by the symbol “(e).” All data can be accessed via master catalogs:

- Kangyur Master Catalog (p) (e)
- Tengyur Master Catalog (p)
- Degé Kangyur (sde dge bka’ ’gyur) (p) (e)
- Degé Tengyur (sde dge bstan ’gyur) (p)
- Peking Kangyur (pe cin bka’ ’gyur)
Sustaining Cultural Heritage Coll.

Deadline: December 2017

- sustainable preservation solutions emphasizing preventive conservation, non-mechanical solutions, & evidence-based decisions

Mechanical room at the Stanford Archive of Recorded Sound.

Stanford University (PF-50169-11)
NEH Proposal Evaluation

- Peer Review (readers external to NEH)
- NEH Staff
- National Council on the Humanities
- NEH Chair

- Anyone can become a peer reviewer!
General Proposal Tips

- Follow format and sections outlined in Guidelines
- Write for a generalist audience (not all reviewers will be specialists in your field)
  - Readers may also include National Council on the Humanities, NEH Chair
  - For P&A, use specific & detailed technical descriptions
- Respond to the evaluation criteria
- Proofread
- Plan ahead (n.b., registering and prepping apps to Grants.gov may require a few days!)
More General Tips

● Talk to or write a program officer to discuss your proposal, ask questions.
● If allowed, send a draft of the application to get preliminary comment.
● Submit your application on time to Grants.gov (start early!)
P&A “Significance” Tips

● Materials/Collection: A detailed, concise description

● Humanities Relationship
  ○ Literature review
  ○ Potential for further support of research, teaching, programming

● Usage
  ○ Reference requests
  ○ Previous publications, exhibits, or digital products (or potential)

● Related materials/collections
  ○ How does it fit in, complement other similar materials?
  ○ Vision of how it will expand current resources
P&A Proposal Tips

● Follow format and sections outlined in Guidelines
  ○ Special attention to Methods (Standards, Sustainability)
  ○ For implementation, technical aspects should be ready to go
  ○ May include description samples, screenshots, in appendix

● Write for an informed, generalist audience (not all reviewers will be specialists in your field) and *information specialists*
  ○ Most P&A review panels include subject specialists and technical experts

● Respond to the evaluation criteria

● Proofread
Review of General Tips

- Study sample applications on our website
- If allowed, send a draft of the application to get preliminary comments
- Submit well ahead of the deadline
- Sign up to serve as a panelist
- Re-apply
- Ask for reviewers’ comments
- Contact NEH staff
NEH Matters

Federal investment in NEH costs less than the price of a stamp per American per year. Its value? Priceless.
Contact

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Appointments: https://neh.setmore.com/