We’re Here to Help: An Introduction to NEH Funding Opportunities for Digital Projects

May 1, 2014
Who?

• Mary Downs, Division of Preservation and Access
• David Weinstein, Division of Public Programs
• Perry Collins, Office of Digital Humanities
• Jennifer Serventi, Office of Digital Humanities
Agenda

• About the Endowment
  – How we spend our money
  – Our grant-making divisions, partners, and initiatives

• Application Strategies
  – Tips
  – Peer Review

• Mock Panel

• Questions
NEH 101

- NEH is funded by you
- NEH is run by people like you
- NEH makes awards in all areas of the humanities
How NEH spends its money

• NEH’s Overall Budget (2014): US $146 million

• ~$27M for administration (salaries, rent)

• $42M distributed to 56 state and territory-based humanities councils

• Remaining $77M given out as direct grants to US institutions—particularly to universities, libraries, and museums—and to individual scholars
# How NEH spends its money

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Division/Office</th>
<th>FY 2014 Funding</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Education</td>
<td>13,237,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Federal-State Partnership</td>
<td>42,435,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Preservation &amp; Access</td>
<td>15,426,000</td>
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<td>• Public</td>
<td>13,654,000</td>
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<td>• Research</td>
<td>14,752,000</td>
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<td>• Digital Humanities</td>
<td>4,388,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Challenge Grants</td>
<td>8,357,000</td>
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<td>• Bridging Cultures</td>
<td>3,494,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Division of Preservation & Access – grants for preserving and providing access to humanities materials; digitization; development of reference materials.

Division of Public Programs – grants for museum exhibits, library programs, & media projects (e.g. documentary films).

Division of Research – grants to scholars and institutions for research projects (individual & collaborative).

Division of Education – grants for seminars for teachers, curriculum development, & learning resources.

Office of Digital Humanities – grants to support innovative technology projects, training in digital humanities methods, and collaborative (national / international) technology projects.

Digital Humanities at NEH

• NEH has rich history of funding work that uses technology to support humanities research

• In first year of operation, NEH funded:
  – Computational research on style of Edmund Burke
  – “Computer-stored” bibliography of American Studies
  – EDUCOM conference on applications of computers in the humanities

• Other awards for TEI, Teaching with Technology
Office of Digital Humanities (ODH)

- In 2006, the NEH launched the Digital Humanities Initiative (DHI) to help coordinate efforts in supporting and promoting digital humanities scholarship, teaching, and learning.

- In March of 2008, DHI was made into a permanent NEH office under the new name “Office of Digital Humanities” (ODH).
Core ODH Grant Programs

Basic Research
Start-Up Grants
Developing innovative practices (analysis, communication, education)
Implementation Grants
Moving innovative projects past start-up phase for wide impact

Expertise
Institutes for Advanced Topics in the Digital Humanities
Developing human infrastructure

International Collaboration
DFG/NEH Bilateral Digital Humanities Grants
Digging Into Data
What do you do with a million...?
Digital Humanities Start-Up Grants

Only one deadline per year (next deadline: Sept 2014)

- Designed to encourage innovations in the digital humanities (emphasis on both method & content).

- Relatively low-dollar grants during the planning stages
  - Level 1: up to $30,000
  - Level 2: from $30,001 to $60,000
Digital Humanities Start-Up Grants

- **Research** that brings new approaches or documents best practices in the study of the digital humanities.

- Planning and prototyping **new digital tools** for preserving, analyzing, and making accessible digital resources, including libraries' and museums' digital assets.

- Scholarship that focuses on the **history, criticism, and philosophy of digital culture** and its impact on society.

- Innovative uses of technology for **scholarly communication**, including formal and informal learning, as well as new models of publication.
Digital Humanities Start-Up Grant Level I & II
• Digital Humanities
• Start-Up Grant Level II 2011

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Digital Humanities Implementation Grants

• Newest program, responding to needs of field

• Deadline will likely be February 2015 (for projects starting in September 2015).

• Like SUGs, designed to encourage innovation in the digital humanities.

• Range of $100,000-325,000 over 1-3 years.

• Limited number of awards (probably 3-5).
• DHIG Grant: Mukurtu Mobile
• 2013
Institutes for Advanced Topics in the Digital Humanities

• A DH **training** institute program with national or regional impact (but doesn’t have to be in the summer).

• A great way to share institutional expertise in the digital humanities.

• Deadline to Direct an Institute: March 2015

• **Can either host an institute or attend as participant.**
Institutes for Advanced Topics in the Digital Humanities

- Doing Digital History: An Institute for Mid-Career American Historians
  George Mason University

- XQuery Summer Institute: Advancing XML-Based Scholarship
  Vanderbilt University

- Building an Accessible Future for the Humanities
  University of Nebraska, Lincoln/Emory University
  Fall 2014/Winter 2015
DFG/NEH Bilateral DH Grants

- Designed to spur collaborations between US and German institutions to explore topics in the digital humanities. Applicants must apply as a team.

- Focus on the development and enrichment of digital collections.

- Deadline: September 25, 2014
Digging into Data

• Seeks to answer the question: “What do you do with a million...?”

• Apply data analysis techniques to large collections of diverse cultural heritage resources

• An international grant competition sponsored by leading research agencies
International Competition for Computationally Intensive Research in the Social Sciences, Humanities, and Information Sciences

DiggingIntoData.org
Atherosclerosis across 4000 years of human history: the Horus study of four ancient populations

Background
Atherosclerosis is thought to be a disease of modern human beings and related to contemporary lifestyles. However, its prevalence before the modern era is unknown. We aimed to evaluate preindustrial populations for atherosclerosis.

Methods
We obtained whole body CT scans of 127 mummies from four different geographical regions or populations spanning more than 4000 years. Individuals from ancient Egypt, ancient Peru, the Ancestral Puebloans of southwest America, and the Onanians of the Almatian islands were imaged. Atherosclerosis was regarded as definite if a calcified plaque was seen in the wall of an artery and probable if calcifications were seen along the expected course of an artery.

Findings
Probable or definite atherosclerosis was noted in 47 (36%) of 127 mummies and in all four geographical populations: 29 (28%) of 76 ancient Egyptians, 12 (25%) of 51 ancient Peruvians, two (4%) of five Ancestral Puebloans, and three (6%) of five Onanian hunter-gatherers (p<0.05). Atherosclerosis was present in the aorta in 28 (20%) mummies, iliac or femoral arteries in 25 (18%), popliteal or tibial arteries in 25 (18%), carotid arteries in 17 (12%), and coronary arteries in six (4%). Of the five vascular beds examined, atherosclerosis was present in one to two beds in 34 (25%) mummies, in three to four beds in 11 (8%), and in all five vascular beds in two (1%). Age at time of death was positively correlated with atherosclerosis (mean age at death was 43 [50 16] years for mummies with atherosclerosis vs 32 [15] years for those without; p<0.0001) and with the number of arterial beds.
Contact Information

- Perry Collins
- pcollins@neh.gov
- Office of Digital Humanities
- odh@neh.gov
Division of Preservation and Access (DPA): Activities We Fund

- Increase access and intellectual control, through cataloging, arranging, and describing (e.g., art and architecture collections, artist studios, archives)

- Extend the life of collections, through conservation treatment, reformatting, and rehousing

- Digitize collections

- Develop databases, spatial tools, and reference resources

- Planning and assessments for care of collections

- Sustainable solutions for preventive conservation of large and diverse holdings in cultural institutions
DPA Grant Programs

Research and Development Projects
(Deadline: May 1, 2014 for projects beginning January 2015)

Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions
(Deadline: May 1, 2014 for projects beginning January 2015)

Humanities Collections and Reference Resources
(Deadline: July 17, 2014 for projects beginning May 2015)

Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections
(Deadline: December 3, 2014 for projects beginning September 2015)
Types of Collections

- Decorative and fine art objects
- Furniture, textiles, and historical objects
- Archaeological and ethnographic artifacts
- Prints and photographs
- Moving images and sound recordings
- Architectural and cartographic records
- Books, journals, archives, and manuscripts
- Digital materials
Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions

PRESERVATION ASSISTANCE GRANTS FOR SMALLER INSTITUTIONS
The National Endowment for the Humanities has made awards all across America.

SOURCE: NEH DIVISION OF PRESERVATION & ACCESS
Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions (PAG)

- NEH’s outreach program
- Over 1,700 awards since 2000
- We encourage applications from institutions that have never applied to NEH
- Awards up to $6,000, easy to write, no cost-share
- Deadline: May 1, 2014
- Projects begin: January 2015
- Guidelines are online:  www.neh.gov
Preservation Assistance
Grants for Smaller Institutions

- General preservation assessments
- Consultations with professionals to address a specific preservation need
- Purchase of storage furniture and preservation supplies
- Purchase of environmental monitoring equipment
- Education and Training (attend or sponsor workshops on disaster recovery, collections care, standards and best practices for digitizing collections).
Develop and Implement a Storage Plan

Before

After
Purchase Storage and Environmental Equipment and Supplies
Develop a Disaster Plan

Biloxi Public Library

Beauvoir
Attend Workshops

On- or off-site workshops led by preservation professionals

Disaster recovery    Preservation and Care of Collections    Digital Preservation
Humanities Collections and Reference Resources (HCRR)

- arrange, describe, catalog collections
- digitize collections
- preserve and improve access to born-digital sources
- develop databases, virtual collections, or other digital resources
- create encyclopedias; prepare linguistic tools
- develop tools for spatial analysis
- design digital tools to facilitate use of humanities resources
Humanities Collections and Reference Resources Awards

Frick Collection and Art Reference Library

Huntington Library and Gardens
Humanities Collections and Reference Resources

Deadline: July 17, 2014
Projects begin: May 2015
Two levels of funding:

- Foundations (planning, assessment, and pilot) up to $40,000, and
- Implementation, up to $350,000

Cost-sharing is recommended
Submission of drafts encouraged
Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections

- An interdisciplinary team for a planning project, and for an implementation project, a strategy based on interdisciplinary planning
- Evidence of questioning current assumptions about preservation goals and collection needs
- Evidence of considering local conditions before developing implementation strategy; this could include local climate, building envelope, collection materials, institutional capacity
- Factoring in non-mechanical ways to improve conditions rather than looking first for a mechanical solution
- Evidence of sustainability goals for the institution as a whole
- Commitment to monitoring and measuring conditions/energy use
Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections

Planning Grants

Implementation Grants
Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections

Folger Shakespeare Library
Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections

Deadline: December 3, 2014
Projects begin: October 2015

Two levels of funding:
• Planning, up to $40,000, and
• Implementation, up to $350,000

Cost-sharing is recommended
Submission of drafts encouraged
Mary Downs
Senior Program Officer
Division of Preservation and Access
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www.neh.gov
Division of Public Programs

- Museums, Libraries, and Cultural Organizations
- Media Projects
- Two deadlines a year: January and August
- Digital Projects for the Public
- Bridging Cultures Through Film
- One Deadline: June 11
Division of Public Programs

- Formats - museum exhibits, historic site tours, mobile media, websites, radio programs, television programs
- Audiences - family and youth, general public
- Single or multiple format
For Today, Two Programs

- Museums, Libraries, and Cultural Organizations
- Digital Projects for the Public
Museum Awards

- Planning $40,000 to $75,000
- Implementation $400,000
- Chairman’s Special Awards $1 million
Projects We Support

- Traveling exhibitions - multiple venues
- Long-term exhibitions at one institution
- Web sites or other digital formats
- Interpretations of historic places or areas
- Reading and discussion programs
- Panel exhibitions
Projects We Support

- Typical institutions: art museums, historical museums/societies, anthropology museums, historic houses and places (sites, neighborhoods, regions), children’s museums
- Awards lists on our Web
- Humanities scholarship is key
Information We Require

- Walkthrough
- Sample wall text
- Humanities themes
- What people will learn/takeaway
- Budget
- Evaluation plan
Digital Projects for the Public

• Discovery: Up to $30,000
  • Supports preliminary consultation, design, audience evaluation
• Prototype: Up to $100,000
  • Supports creation of prototype
Information We Require at Both Levels

- Budget
- Description of format
- Strong media and scholarly teams
- Humanities themes
- What people will learn/takeaway
- Program officers can help you
Contact Information

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• 202-606-8308

• Division of Public Programs
• publicpgms@neh.gov
• 202-606-8269
Grants support individuals and teams of scholars pursuing advanced research in the humanities that will contribute to scholarly knowledge or to the general public's understanding of the humanities.
Research

• NEH Fellowships
  • Deadline: May 1, 2014

• Summer Stipends
  • Deadline: September 30, 2014

• Scholarly Editions / Collaborative Research
  • Deadline: December 9, 2014
Office of Challenge Grants

- Permanent endowments, supporting ongoing and recurring costs such as salaries, honoraria for visiting scholars, fellowships, and maintenance

- One-time capital costs for items such as facilities, equipment, and acquisitions

- Combined in “spend-down” funds that are invested, with both the income and the principal expended over a defined period of years

Deadline: May 2015
State Humanities Councils
Application Strategies
Peer Review Process

- Applications submitted for single grant program
- Reviewers recruited to evaluate applications
- Reviewers offer preliminary grades and comments online
- Sitting panel meets at NEH offices for final discussion
Additional Stages of Review

- The Staff
- The National Council on the Humanities
- The Chairman – Currently Acting Chairman Carole Watson
How do I apply?

- Step One: Visit the NEH website (www.neh.gov) and READ THE GUIDELINES.
Find the Right Program

- Different grant programs have different goals

- How can your project be divided into multiple smaller projects appropriate to specific grant categories?

- Can usually apply to multiple programs at once

- Examples of projects funded through multiple divisions
Other Funded Projects
Other Funded Projects

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

Fund Grant Projects Query Form

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<td>Grant program</td>
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<td>Collaborative Research*</td>
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<td>To</td>
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Frequently Asked Questions   Query Form   NFH Website

Grant data as of 6/4/2012
Consider the Funding Source

• What is the mandate of the granting agency?
  – NEH can only fund projects that further humanities research

• Read the guidelines thoroughly
  – We aim for transparency
  – Guidelines offer clues on how to frame your application

• Consider backgrounds of potential reviewers
  – Different divisions will have different reviewers
  – Think broadly and be explicit
Think about your audience

- For the application: Generalists and specialists, especially on the National Council for the Humanities

- For the final product: How is it significant for them?

- Don’t make it hard on them—make clear what you’re doing, limit the jargon

- Explicitly address the criteria
Budget Advice

- As with other application components, budget requirements can vary according to program, so:
  - read the guidelines
  - talk to the appropriate division
  - work with your office of sponsored research

- Allowable costs might include salaries/wages, fringe benefits, consultant fees, travel, supplies/materials, equipment costs, participant stipends, etc.

- Federally negotiated indirect costs

- Cost sharing
Remember!

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We’re here to help!

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES
Thank you!

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  Division of Preservation and Access  
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