



Digitizing Hidden Special Collections and Archives

Enabling New Scholarship Through Increasing Access to Unique Materials

Field notes from natural science expeditions...Early recordings of Appalachian folk songs...The personal papers of Gabriel Garcíá Márquez... Records of the history of segregation and integration in Arkansas schools... these are just a sampling of the resources that are becoming available

online with support from CLIR's Digitizing Hidden Special Collections and Archives program.

Funded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and administered by CLIR, Hidden

Collections is a national competition for digitizing collections of rare and unique content in cultural memory institutions and making them available to users.

Over the past three years, CLIR has awarded grants of between \$50,000 and \$500,000 to 49 institutions or groups of institutions holding special collections of high scholarly value. A review panel, comprising scholars from a range of disciplines and experts in metadata standards, intellectual property, privacy and ethics, and digital preservation, evaluates proposals and recommends award recipients.

Proposals for 2018 are currently being reviewed and recipients will be announced in early January 2019.



Above: "Boy with Bird on Rooftop in the City," illustration by Robert Short, published in *Redbook*, October 1963. Walt Reed Illustration Archive, Washington University in St. Louis.

Far right: Sheet music for the "National Temperance Ode" set to the notes of the "Star Spangled Banner." The Edison Collection of American Sheet Music, 1800–1870.

AT A GLANCE

Next call for proposals: January 2019

Number of awards in 2017: 14

Total funds available in 2018: \$4 million

Website: <https://www.clir.org/fellowships/hiddencollections>

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A list of funded projects is available at <https://www.clir.org/hiddencollections/awards>



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www.clir.org/fellowships/hiddencollections ■ @CLIRHC ■ #digHC

“The program’s goal is to facilitate complete access to rare cultural artifacts online.”

PROGRAM GOALS

The program coheres around six core values:

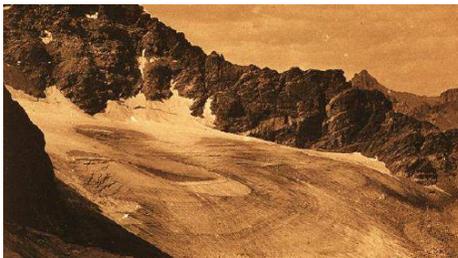
- **Scholarship:** maximize the impact on the creation and dissemination of new knowledge;
- **Comprehensiveness:** support digitization projects that will provide thorough coverage of important topics of high interest to scholars, in ways that help those scholars understand digitized sources’ provenance and context;
- **Connectedness:** make digitized sources easily discoverable and accessible alongside related materials;
- **Collaboration:** promote strategic partnerships rather than duplication of capacity and effort;
- **Sustainability:** promote best practices for ensuring the long-term availability and discoverability of files created through digitization; and
- **Openness:** ensure that digitized content will be made available to the public as easily and completely as possible, given ethical and legal constraints.

RELATED RESOURCES

A range of proposal planning resources, including applicant toolkit videos, sample proposals, and FAQs are available at <https://www.clir.org/hiddencollections/applicant-resources/>.

Innovation, Collaboration and Models: Proceedings of the CLIR Cataloging Hidden Special Collections and Archives Symposium, March 2015. The volume documents the capstone event to the seven-year Cataloging Hidden Special Collections and Archives program, precursor to the Digitizing Hidden Special Collections and Archives program. Papers by past project staff and PIs cover a range of topics on working with hidden collectins.

Right: “Arapaho Glacier,” by R. Y. Bracket, 1898. Glacier Photograph Collection, National Snow and Ice Data Center/World Data Center for Glaciology, Boulder, CO



Above: Page from the scrapbook of Lt. Edward Sproull, 1897–1956, who served as a pilot with the American Expeditionary Forces and the American Squadron of the French Air Force during World War I. Collection of the Museum of Flight, Seattle, WA.