



**CLIR/Library of Congress Mellon Fellowships for Dissertation Research in Original Sources
Guide for Reference Providers**

Letters may be submitted to CLIR at mellon@clir.org or given to the applicant for submission. Letters sent directly to CLIR will be held confidential and will not be shared with the applicant. Review of completed applications will begin on **March 1, 2016**.

For this fellowship, CLIR seeks proposals from applicants whose dissertation projects will benefit from the opportunity to interrogate primary sources using an array of new technologies and equipment available at The Library of Congress. The successful applicant will explain how he or she will use new technologies (e.g., hyperspectral imaging, environmental scanning electron scanning microscopy), sophisticated analysis and/or restoration methods to reveal content and properties of original sources to elicit new interpretations and advance scholarship in the field.

Your letter will be most beneficial to the applicant and our evaluators if it covers the following:

1. How long and in what capacity have you known the applicant, and how would you rank the applicant's ability and reliability overall in relation to other doctoral candidates?
2. Is the amount of research time and support requested by the applicant appropriate? Will more be needed, or would less suffice?
3. How does the applicant's proposed research match the goals of this fellowship?
4. Will the applicant use original source materials with originality and creativity? Will the applicant use sources that are newly opened, not traditional for the field, little used, or seldom used in the way proposed by the applicant?
5. How well is the applicant prepared for the proposed research through academic coursework, language competencies, research experience, familiarity with relevant secondary literature, and other experiences and achievements?
6. How important is the applicant's proposed dissertation to scholarship in its field?
7. Will the applicant have completed all doctoral requirements except the dissertation prior to the beginning the fellowship, including approval of the dissertation proposal?

Should you have questions, please contact us at mellon@clir.org. Thank you for your willingness to provide a letter!

About the fellowship:

The Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) is offering a competitively-awarded fellowship at the Library of Congress for 2016-2017. This fellowship is part of the [*Mellon Fellowships for Dissertation Research in Original Sources*](#) program, which is generously funded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The program is designed to support original-source dissertation research for junior scholars in fields in the humanities and related social sciences.