Digitizing Hidden Special Collections and Archives

Enabling New Scholarship
Through Increasing Access to Unique Materials

Digitizing Hidden Special Collections and Archives is a national competition administered by CLIR for digitizing collections of rare and unique content in cultural memory institutions. The program is supported by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and is built upon the model of CLIR's Cataloging Hidden Special Collections and Archives program, which awarded its final round of grants in December 2014.

The first awards for the Digitizing Hidden Special Collections and Archives program were made in 2015 and 2016. This year, CLIR expects to award about $4 million to institutions holding collections of high scholarly value. A review panel, comprising scholars from a range of disciplines and experts in metadata standards, intellectual property, and digital pedagogy, will evaluate initial proposals, which were due April 3.

While this program's funding is subject to renewal annually, it is CLIR's hope that it will continue for several years. Information about any future iterations of the program will be posted at http://www.clir.org/hiddencollections. The next call for proposals is expected in mid-January 2018. Queries may also be sent to hiddencollections@clir.org.

Digitizing Hidden Special Collections and Archives aims to enhance the emerging global digital research environment in ways that support new kinds of scholarship for the long term. The program is designed to:

• Have maximum impact on the creation and dissemination of new knowledge.

• Support digitization projects that will provide thorough coverage of an important topic or topics of high interest to scholars, in ways that help those scholars understand digitized sources' provenance and context.

• Support projects that make digitized sources easily discoverable and accessible alongside related materials, including materials held by other collecting institutions as well as those held within the home institution.

• Promote strategic partnerships rather than duplication of capacity and effort.

• Promote best practices for ensuring the long-term availability and discoverability of digital files created through digitization.

• Ensure that digitized content will be made available to the public as easily and completely as possible, given ethical and legal constraints.

Digitizing Hidden Collections Program: 2017 Cycle At a Glance

PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

- Minimum allowable request for 2017: $50,000
- Maximum allowable request for 2017: single-institution projects: $250,000 / collaborative projects: $500,000
- Minimum allowable project term: 12 months
- Maximum allowable project term: single-institution projects: 24 months / collaborative projects: 36 months

PROGRAM TIMELINE, 2017

- April 3: Deadline for submission of initial proposals.
- July 14: Initial proposal feedback issued to all applicants; final proposal application cycle opens for applicants whose initial proposals have been authorized to advance to the final round.
- September 20: Deadline for submission of final proposals (invitation only).
- December 29: All applicants will be notified of their proposal's final status on or before this date.

ELIGIBLITY

CLIR welcomes applications from any U.S. library, museum, archive, or other cultural heritage institution that holds hidden collections of broad scholarly import and meets the program's general eligibility requirements:

- The applicant institution must be a not-for-profit organization as defined by the U.S. Internal Revenue Codes Section 501(c)(3) or a university or college exempt under Section 115, Section 170(c)(1), or a similar designation.

- The applicant institution must be located in the United States or in an associated entity, e.g., the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico or American Samoa.

CLIR accepts proposals for collaborative projects that include partnerships between U.S. and Canadian institutions. Collaborators at Canadian institutions may serve as co-principal investigators, but the lead institution must be a U.S. institution that meets the criteria listed above.

RESOURCES

- Information for applicants, including recordings of past webinars and the application guidelines: http://www.clir.org/hiddencollections/applicants
- Digitizing Special Formats Wiki: http://wiki.diglib.org/Digitizing_Special_Formats
- Related Grant Programs: http://www.clir.org/hiddencollections/applicants/related-grant-programs

CONTACT US

For questions about the program or the proposal process that are not answered on our website, send a message to hiddencollections@clir.org. You can also follow us on Twitter @CLIRHC, or by using the hashtag #digHC.

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