



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

**Humanities**

# **NEH Grant Writing Workshop**

**Marquette University**

**April 11, 2013**

**Stefanie Walker**

**Senior Program Officer, Division of Research**

**National Endowment for the Humanities**

# NEH 101

- NEH is funded by you
- is run by people like you
- makes awards in all areas of the humanities
- 7 divisions and offices offer grants
- all grant information is at [neh.gov](http://neh.gov)
- all applications are peer reviewed

# NEH 101

The term ‘humanities’ includes, but is not limited to, the study of the following: language, both modern and classical; linguistics; literature; history; jurisprudence; philosophy; archaeology; comparative religion; ethics; the history, criticism and theory of the arts; [and] those aspects of social sciences which have humanistic content and employ humanistic methods . . . .”

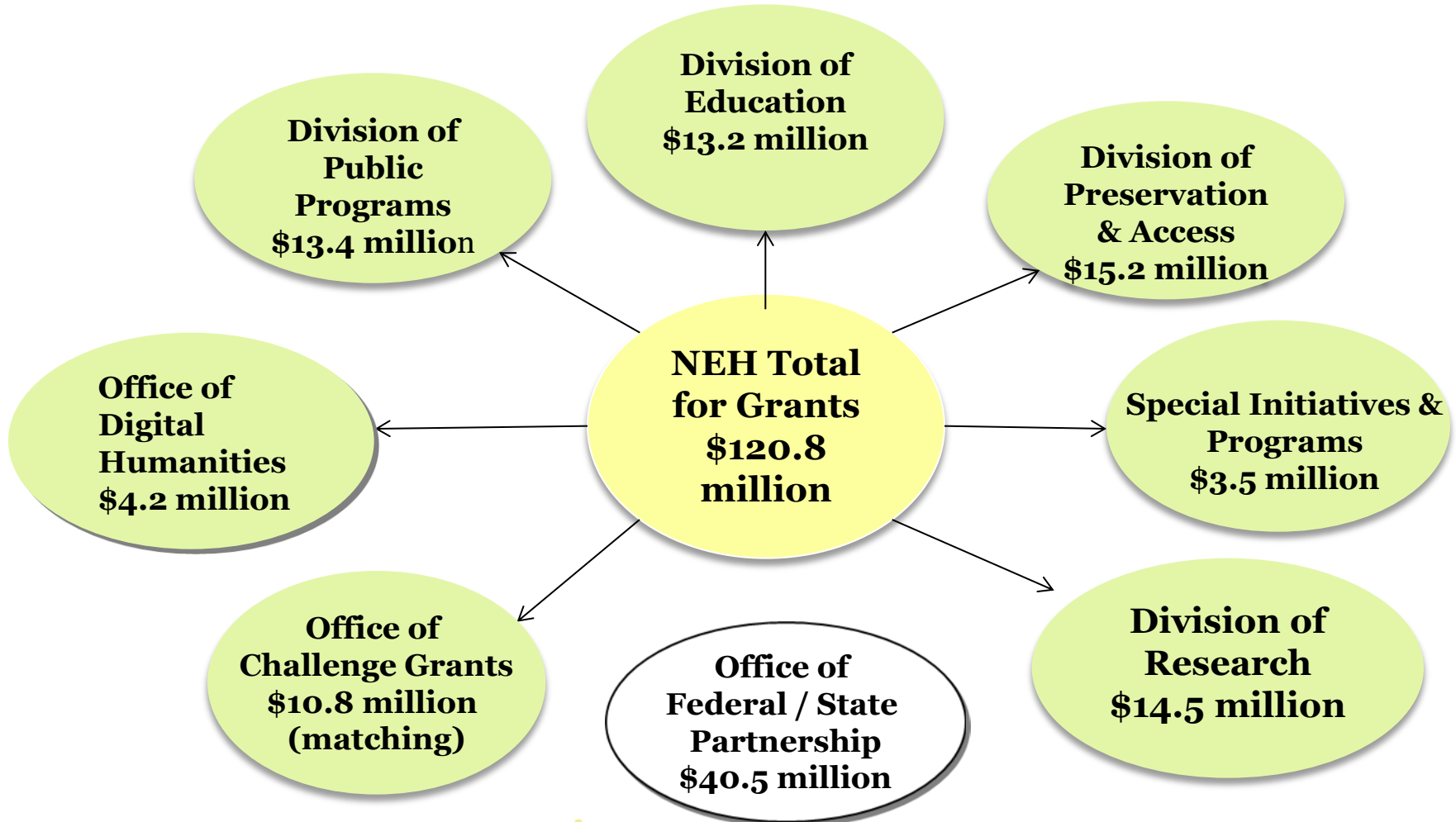
National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965



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# NEH Offices & Divisions



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# Office of Federal/State Partnership



ALASKA  
AMERICAN SAMOA  
GUAM  
HAWAI'I  
NORTHERN MARIANAS  
PUERTO RICO  
VIRGIN ISLANDS

Dena Wortzel  
Executive Director

[dwortzel@wisconsinhumanities.org](mailto:dwortzel@wisconsinhumanities.org)

608-265-5593



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# Office of Challenge Grants

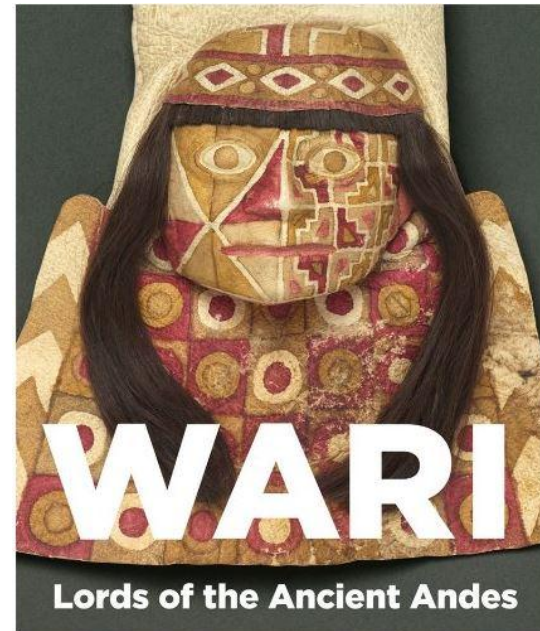
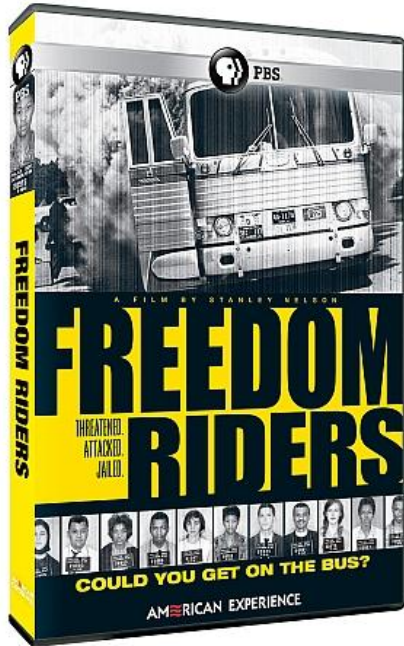


Institution-building grants to improve humanities programs and carry out long-term plans for strengthening basic resources and enhancing financial stability.



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# Division of Public Programs



Grants for the presentation of humanities topics to large and diverse public audiences. Grants typically support radio and television documentaries, exhibitions and interpretation of historic sites, reading and discussion series, lectures, and symposia.



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# Division of Education



Grants strengthen teaching and learning through new or revised curricula and materials, collaborative study, seminars, and institutes.

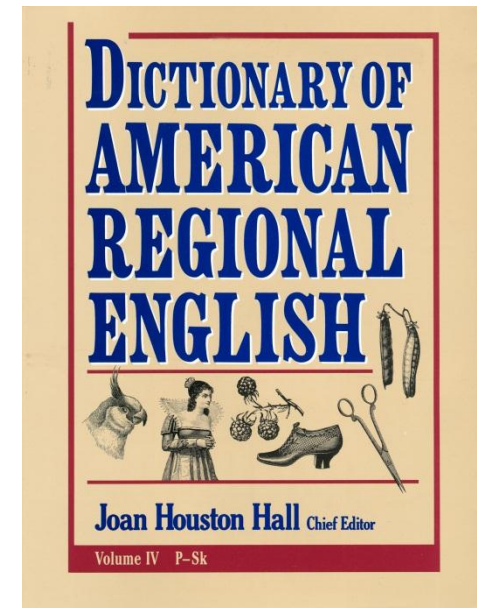


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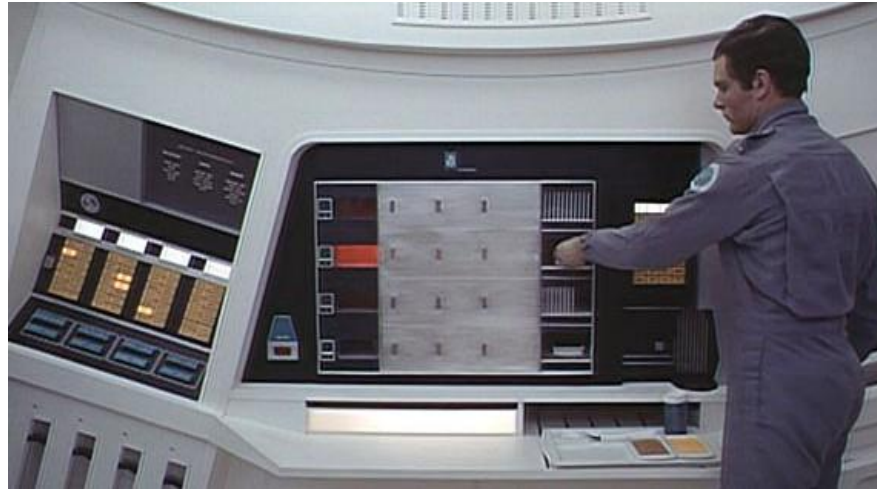
# Division of Preservation and Access

Grants to preserve archival holdings (including digitization); enhance access to materials; train preservationists; and produce reference works for scholarly research, education, and public programming.



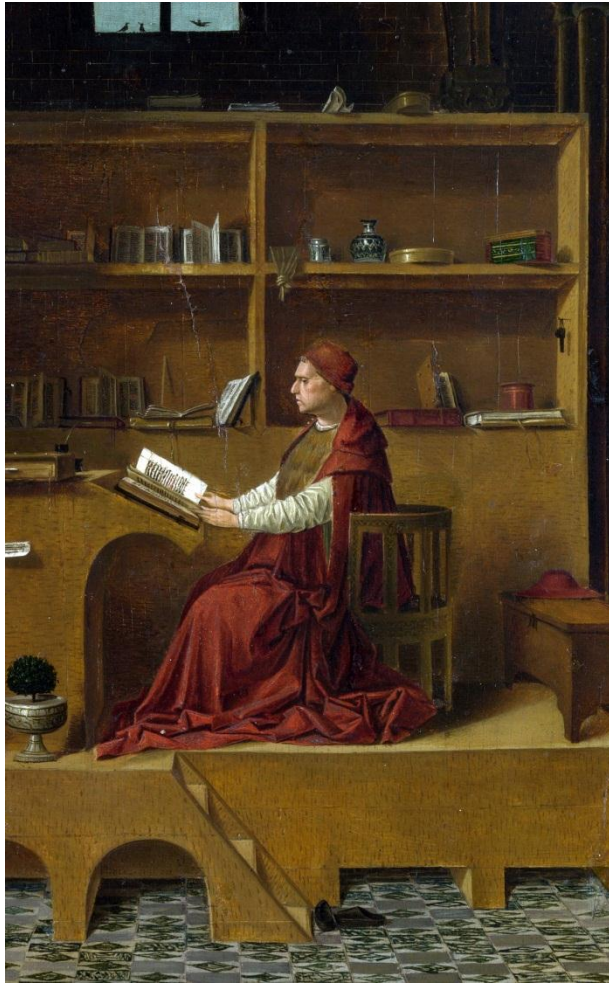
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# Office of Digital Humanities



Encourages innovations in the digital humanities through research that brings new approaches or documents best practices; creation of digital tools for preserving, analyzing, and making accessible digital resources; and examination of the philosophical implications and impact of emerging technologies

# Division of Research



Makes grants to 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.



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Application information

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National Endowment for the Humanities

Subscription active (expires 2013-02-09 01:00) 0 / 6 Log out swalker

Research Home Page Administrative Area Add a new Research Story Add a new Fellowship

ACCESSIBILITY PRIVACY POLICY STAFF DIRECTORY

HOME ABOUT NEH **GRANTS** DIVISIONS AND OFFICES NEWS EXPLORE

### The Poetic Nun

The first great poet of Latin America was a nun and a champion of the rights of women. She is also the subject of an informative online curriculum unit at EDSITEment, NEH's award-winning website for students, teachers and life-long learners.

**GRANTS**

**FUNDED PROJECTS**  
Look up projects NEH has funded

SEARCH FOR A GRANT  
Match your project to a grant program

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES  
Apply for an NEH funded Seminar

EXPLORE THE HUMANITIES

Websites, apps, and digital projects supported by NEH grants

**Perseus Digital Library**  
Dive into ancient Greece and Rome with this evolving digital library of texts, art, and archaeology images. [READ MORE >](#)

Grants database

# Selected Individual Grants & Deadlines

- Awards for Faculty 4/16/13
- Fellowships 5/1/13
- Summer Stipends 9/26/13  
(nomination usually required)
- Lib. of Congress/Kluge Fellowships 7/15/13

<http://www.loc.gov/loc/kluge/fellowships/kluge.html>



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# Selected Institutional Grants & Deadlines

- Collaborative Research 12/5/13
- Scholarly Editions & Translations 12/5/13
  
- Enduring Questions 9/12/13
- Bridging Cultures through Film 6/12/13
- Preservation Assistance Grants 5/1/13
- Challenge Grants 5/1/13



# Applying to NEH and Peer Review



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## NEH GRANTS

### GRANTS

[MANAGE A GRANT](#)

[NEH ON GRANTS.GOV](#)

[APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS](#)

[BECOME A PEER REVIEWER](#)



### INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE APPLICANTS

#### GRANTS.GOV SHUTDOWN ON APRIL 28 AND 29

The Grants.gov website will be out of service on Saturday and Sunday, April 28 and 29, 2012, due to planned maintenance. On those days you will not be able to register for an account with Grants.gov, download the application package, submit an application, or request help from Grants.gov staff. More [details](#) are available from the [Grants.gov blog](#).



### GRANT MANAGEMENT

**Manage your grant**  
*now.*

#### FILE REPORTS USING



NEH's online grant management system

### RESOURCES FOR

- + Individuals
- + Organizations

## Grant Opportunities, Application Guidelines, and Resources for Managing Your Grant

### SEARCH FOR A GRANT

**Match your project to a grant program**

*Not sure where to start? Use this list as a springboard for finding a grant program that might fit your project.*

Filter by Division/Office



Applicant Type



Keyword(s):

APPLY

RESET

### CONTACT NEH

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT  
FOR THE HUMANITIES  
1100 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, D.C. 20506

#### General Information

1-800-NEH-1121  
202-606-8400

TITLE ▲	DEADLINE	DIVISION/OFFICE
<a href="#">America's Historical and Cultural Organizations: Planning Grants</a>	January 11, 2012	Division of Public Programs
<a href="#">America's Historical and Cultural Organizations: Implementation Grants</a>	January 11, 2012	Division of Public Programs



## NEH GRANTS

### GRANTS

[MANAGE YOUR GRANT](#)[NEH ON GRANTS.GOV](#)[APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS](#)[BECOME A PEER REVIEWER](#)

Keep up-to-date with upcoming Grant Program deadlines.

## Fellowships

 Like 21  Tweet 19  +1 4 EMAIL  PRINT

### Division of Research Programs

Receipt Deadline May 1, 2013 for Projects Beginning January 2014

#### Brief Summary

Fellowships support individuals pursuing advanced research that is of value to humanities scholars, general audiences, or both. Recipients usually produce articles, monographs, books, digital materials, archaeological site reports, translations, editions, or other scholarly resources in the humanities. Projects may be at any stage of development.

#### Program Statistics

In the last five competitions the Fellowships program received an average of 1,261 applications per year. The program made an average of 88 awards per year, for a funding ratio of 7 percent.

The number of applications to an NEH grant program can vary widely from year to year, as can the funding ratio. Information about the average number of applications and awards in recent competitions is meant only to provide historical context for the current competition. Information on the number of applications and awards in individual competitions is available from [fellowships@neh.gov](mailto:fellowships@neh.gov).

#### Questions?

Contact NEH's Division of Research Programs at 202-606-8200 or [fellowships@neh.gov](mailto:fellowships@neh.gov). Hearing-impaired applicants can contact NEH via TDD at 1-866-372-2930.

### GUIDELINES RESOURCES

#### Download Application Materials

 [Fellowships Guidelines \(PDF\)](#)

[Fellowships Grants.gov application package](#)

#### Program Resources

 [Fellowships Frequently Asked Questions, 2013 \(PDF\)](#)

[List of recently funded Fellowships for College Teachers and Independent Scholars](#)

[List of recently funded Fellowships for University Teachers](#)

[DUNS Number Requirement](#)

#### Sample Application Narratives

 [American Studies, American Nervousness in the Nineteenth Century \(PDF\)](#) [Asian Studies, Law and Custom in Korea \(PDF\)](#) [British Literature, Nonconformist British](#)

of reference by logging in to [the secure area of NEH's website](#). Enter your NEH tracking number (or application number) and your Grants.gov tracking number. You will be able to see the names and e-mail addresses of your letter writers and whether your letters of reference have arrived. (You will also be sent e-mail notification when each letter arrives.) If necessary, you may also send reminders to your letter writers from this site.

## V. Application Review

**Evaluators are asked to apply the following five criteria when judging the quality of applications.**

1. The intellectual significance of the proposed project, including its value to humanities scholars, general audiences, or both.
2. The quality or promise of quality of the applicant's work as an interpreter of the humanities.
3. The quality of the conception, definition, organization, and description of the project and the applicant's clarity of expression.
4. The feasibility of the proposed plan of work, including, when appropriate, the soundness of the dissemination and access plans.
5. The likelihood that the applicant will complete the project.

Fellowships support projects at any stage of development.

### **Review and selection process**

Knowledgeable persons outside NEH will read each application and advise the agency about its merits. NEH staff comments on matters of fact or on significant issues that otherwise would be missing from these reviews, then makes recommendations to the National Council on the Humanities. The National Council meets at various times during the year to advise the NEH chairman on grants. The chairman takes into account the advice provided by the review process and, by law, makes all funding decisions.

# Grants.gov

Grants.gov - Get Registered

GRANTS.GOV™

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Home » For Applicants » Get Registered

## GET REGISTERED

In order to apply for a grant, you and/or your organization must complete the Grants.gov registration process. The registration process for an Organization or an Individual can take between three to five business days or as long as four weeks if all steps are not completed in a timely manner. So please register early!

Please choose one of the options below:

**Organization Registration**

An individual who is responsible for submitting a grant on behalf a company, state, local, or tribal government, academia or research institution, not-for-profit or any other institution.

[Organization Registration Overview Tutorial](#)

[Organization Registration User Guide](#)

[Organization Registration Checklist](#)

**Individual Registration**

Submitting a grant on your own behalf. If you register as an Individual, you will only be able to apply to grant opportunities indicating Individual eligibility.

[Organization Registration Overview Tutorial](#)

[Individual Registration User Guide](#)

**FOR APPLICANTS**

- Applicant Login
- Find Grant Opportunities
- Get Registered
- Organization Registration
- Individual Registration
- Apply for Grants
- Track My Application
- Applicant Resources
- Search, FAQs, Userguides and site information

**FOR GRANTORS**

- ABOUT GRANTS.GOV
- HELP
- CONTACT US
- SITE MAP

**Register**

**Your grants office can help.**

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# Applications for individual grants

**Schedule:** Annual grant cycle (Awards for Faculty in mid-April, Fellowships in early May, Summer Stipends in October) for the following academic year. Results announced eight months later

**Requirements:** 3 page single-spaced narrative; 1 page bibliography; 2 page c.v.; 2 letters of recommendation

**Fundable:** Research, writing, scholarly monographs, synthetic works, translation, preparation of research tools (e.g., editions, databases), archaeological work

**Not fundable:** Projects that seek to promote a particular political, philosophical, religious, or ideological point of view, or a particular program of social action; pedagogical tools (e.g., textbooks); creative or performing arts; doctoral dissertations or theses.



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# Stages of Review

Peer Review Panel



NEH staff



National Council



Chairman

<http://www.neh.gov/grants/application-process>



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# Fellowships Panels

- Staff groups applications by field
- Each set is assigned to a 4- or 5- member panel
- Panelists are recruited for regional, institutional, career diversity
- Panelists are experts and generalists
- Panelists rate 30-40 applications



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# Rating Scale

- E                      Excellent
- VG                    Very good
- G                      Good
- SM                    Some merit
- NC                    Not competitive

# Evaluation Criteria

1. The intellectual significance of the proposed project, including its value to humanities scholars, general audiences, or both.
2. The quality or promise of quality of the applicant's work as an interpreter of the humanities.
3. The quality of the conception, definition, organization, and description of the project and the applicant's clarity of expression.
4. The feasibility of the proposed plan of work, including, when appropriate, the soundness of the dissemination and access plans.
5. The likelihood that the applicant will complete the project.



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# Think about your readers

- For the application: Generalists and specialists, especially on the Council
- For the final product: How is it significant for them?
- Don't make it hard on them—make clear what you're doing, avoid jargon, define field-specific concepts and terms
- Explicitly address the criteria



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# The application

- Intrigue the panelists
- Balance abstraction and precision
- Engage with current scholarship on your topic
- Dissertations: What's new?
- Make work plan explicit, and make clear it's doable
- Have an up-to-date bibliography
- Don't discuss need
- Don't discuss previous applications



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# Further tips

- Take advantage of sample applications on the website
- Draft early and get comments
- Proofread!
- Discuss your application with your letter writers



# A multi-year process

- Sign up to serve as a panelist
- Talk to program officers
- Remember the intensity of the competition
- Re-apply
- Ask for your comments



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# Questions?

Contact:

Stefanie Walker

NEH Division of Research

1100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Room 318

Washington, DC 20506

[swalker@neh.gov](mailto:swalker@neh.gov)

202-606-8478

Also: [research@neh.gov](mailto:research@neh.gov) / 202-606-8200



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