



Digital Edition Publishing Cooperatives

NHPRC-MELLON CALL FOR PROPOSALS

THE
ANDREW W.

MELLON
FOUNDATION

Welcome

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** Reminder: We will use the note/chat function for questions. Please reply to “all” and I will respond at the end of the presentation.

Agenda

- NHPRC-Mellon Digital Edition Publishing Cooperative planning grants overview:
 - *Purpose and context*
 - *Award information*
 - *Deadlines*
 - *Selection and Notification*
 - *FAQs*
 - *Your Questions!*
 - *Some final tips*

Purpose of the Initiative

- To support digital publication of documentary and scholarly editions, including their long-term preservation, discovery, and use;
- To investigate the possibility of creating a federated system (or systems) of cooperatives for publishing and sustaining digital editions.

Background and Context

- Ongoing need for reliable, authoritative, and field-driven outlets for publication and discovery of digital editions;
- Editors lack access to predictable, affordable, and sustainable publication channels;
- Projects find it difficult to build and maintain their own digital infrastructure for creating and disseminating their work;
- This context imposes artificial constraints at the level of project conception and scope.

Opportunity for Experimentation and Collaboration

- To learn ways of sharing information standards, editorial practices, and dissemination mechanisms;
- To exploit the synergies among editions and enable them to interact;
- To explore ways to operate as a federated system: to build broader connections at the level of technical infrastructure, shared semantics, and cooperative policies.

Cooperation and Negotiation Comes First

- To identify common frameworks and shared foundations;
- To arrive at negotiated agreements for collaborative work.

“Cooperation in this environment needs to be built, not imposed.”

Planning and Implementation

Developing the Digital Edition Publishing Cooperatives will be a two-stage process for *Planning* and *Implementation*:

- The one-year planning stage will commence January 1, 2018;
- All planning teams would be eligible to apply for Implementation funding;
- Three implementation grants are expected to be awarded in September 2019, with a start date of no later than October 1, 2019.

Award Information

Stage 1: Planning

- Planning grants are for one year and up to \$100,000. As many as 8 planning grants are expected to be awarded.
- Work should commence no later than February 1, 2018, and end no later than January 31, 2019.
- By March 31, 2019, project teams will produce (1) a report on the planning grant and (2) a full proposal for implementation.

Award Information

Stage 2: Implementation

- Up to 3 implementation grants of up to \$500,000, for up to 3 years, are expected to be awarded, for a total of up to \$1.25 million.
- Implementation work is expected to commence no later than October 1, 2019.

Deadlines

- Deadline for Drafts (optional): May 15, 2017
- **Deadline for Proposals: July 6, 2017**
- Notification of Selected Proposals: August 11, 2017
- Selected Proposals Revised By: September 1, 2017
- Notification of Successful Applicants: December 15, 2017
- Project Start Date: January 1, 2018

Selection, Notification and Award Administration

- NHPRC staff will administer the peer review process.
- Final selection of awardees will be determined by August 1, 2017, in consultation with staff of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.
- Selected applicants will then have an opportunity to incorporate comments from reviewers and submit their revisions by September 1, 2017. Mellon Foundation staff will review the proposals and may request formatting or other minor changes to be submitted by no later than September 15, 2017.
- The trustees of the Foundation will consider the proposals at their meeting in December 2017, and grants will be announced by December 15, 2017.
- Awards will be administered by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, in consultation with the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

Frequently Asked Questions

I am a U.S. citizen and the director of an edition project located at an institution outside of the U.S. Am I eligible to apply?

Answer: “While project teams may include non-U.S. participants, the majority of participants, including the principal investigator, authorized representative, applicant organization, and the primary institutional host (if different) must be located in the U.S.”

Question: I am a professor teaching at a U.S. institution and my digital edition project is in the field of medieval studies. My primary research partners are based in Europe. Would my project be a good fit, and could one of my colleagues' (non-U.S.) institution serve as host?

This question has two parts: eligibility and “fit,” or how edition clusters might cohere.

- *Eligibility*: “While project teams may include non-U.S. participants, the majority of participants, including the principal investigator, authorized representative, applicant organization, and the primary institutional host (if different) must be located in the U.S.”
- *Edition Clusters and Coherence*: “Each team should cohere around a common set of concerns, which may be defined in a variety of ways: by historical subject area, research methodology, or common editorial structures.... Cooperatives, once established, may expand over time.”

Question: I am working on a collaborative project that is transatlantic by definition, dealing with archival collections and project partners based in Canada, the U.S. and in Europe. Are we eligible to apply? Do all or most of the archival materials we are working with need to be located in the U.S.?

Answer is the same as above regarding eligibility.

Also, please review criteria for creating project teams:

- All teams should include a Principal Investigator, a minimum of three participating edition projects, and at least one institutional host.
- Project teams should cohere around a common set of concerns—e.g., by historical subject area, research methodology, or common editorial structures.
- They also should include the necessary editorial, technical, and scholarly expertise to address the challenges of developing a Cooperative at every level.

Question: Will the initiative prefer projects in U.S. history, or can projects working on non-U.S. subjects participate?

Edition Clusters and Coherence: “Each team should cohere around a common set of concerns, which may be defined in a variety of ways: by historical subject area, research methodology, or common editorial structures.”

How will we decide? Peer reviewers will use the following review criteria:

- 1. Significance and feasibility of the ideas animating the Planning Process (30 percent):** The quality, breadth, and scope of the ideas underlying the planning, the feasibility of the proposed work plan, and the potential impact: for the creation, publication, discovery, and use of digital editions; for the participating projects and institutional collaborators; and for the advancement of disciplinary goals and scholarship.
- 2. Project Team (30 percent):** The creativity, qualifications, and level of commitment of team members; their appropriateness to participate in the planning process; the breadth of representation from all relevant constituencies.
- 3. Timeline (20 percent):** The likelihood that the applicant will achieve the project’s goals in a timely and efficient manner.
- 4. Budget (20 percent):** The appropriateness and reasonability of the project’s costs.

Question: I am in conversation with directors of several edition projects interested in participating. Two of them are new projects. May we use grant funds to advance the editorial work of these two projects so that we will all be able to collaborate?

Answer: Grant funds are not intended to support the basic editorial work or normal operating costs of participating edition projects or their host(s). Because “project teams will work collaboratively to determine,” for example, “common editorial practices, encoding schemes, protocols for data sharing and reuse, and underlying systems of data management and curation,” the “editorial work of each project team should be well-advanced so that they can focus on cross-project collaboration and negotiation.”

Two additional points related to funding that are worth reiterating:

- 1) *grant funds may not be used to pay indirect costs; and*
- 2) *cost sharing is NOT a requirement.*

Q&A: What Questions Do You Have?

- Please type your question into the Notes box.
- Be sure to select “All” so that everyone can view your comment or question.

Tips

- Read, digest, and follow grant announcement rules and instructions;
- Contact Darrell Meadows, NHPRC Director for Publishing;
- Reach out to colleagues, particularly those with projects and programs similar to yours;
- Higher Education institution? Contact your Sponsored Programs Office well in advance of the deadline;
- Double-check! Application must include all items requested in the full announcement, located at:

www.archives.gov/nhprc/announcement/publishingcoops

More Questions? Contact:

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