Funding the Development of Best Practices:
NEH Research and Development Program

BEST PRACTICES EXCHANGE CONFERENCE
MAY 18, 2020
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FUNDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF BEST PRACTICES: AGENDA

• What the program funds
• Elements of a Successful Best Practices-Based Project
  • Interdisciplinarity
  • Addressing Research Impact and Needs in the Field, including Under-represented Communities
  • Dissemination
• Examples of funded projects (time permitting)
• Open Discussion
Division of Preservation and Access

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Supports projects that address major challenges in preserving or providing access to humanities collections and resources.

Awards are available along two levels:

Tier I ($75,000, up to two years): Basic research, case studies, experiments, planning for larger research projects

Tier II ($350,000, up to three years): Development of standards, practices, methodologies, workflows

Deadline: May 15, 2020

University of Nebraska-Lincoln
PR-253389-17
Interdisciplinarity

Humanities and Sciences (Natural, Information, and Computer Science)

Successful projects typically have teams representing multiple disciplines
Research and Development

ELEMENTS OF A SUCCESSFUL APPLICATION

Areas of Special Interest:

- Preserving audiovisual and digital heritage
- Conserving material past
- Protecting cultural heritage
- Reaching underrepresented communities
Dissemination and Adaptation

• Strategic dissemination plan

• Introduced a new category in Tier I: Adaptation

• Focus on applying new standards, methodologies, workflows, equipment to targeted audience

• Combination of workshops, symposia, forums, documentation, user testing, public demonstrations, online resources and tutorials, websites, or publications
Preservation and Access Research Impact

- Distinct from Significance to the Humanities section
- Addressing practitioners in the field
- Opportunity to discuss dissemination
Peer reviewers will use the following criteria to review applications:

- Significance and potential impact
- Soundness of methodology
- Viability, efficiency, and productivity of project
- Feasibility and effectiveness of plans for evaluating and sustaining project results
- Qualifications and expertise of project staff
- Reasonableness of proposed budget
Sustaining MedArt: The Impact of Socio-Technical Factors on Digital Preservation Strategies
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT: TIER II FUNDED PROJECT EXAMPLE

TK Seasonal (TK S)  TK Outreach (TK O)  TK Verified (TK V)  TK Attribution (TK A)

TK Community Use Only (TK CO)  TK Secret / Sacred (TK SS)  TK Women General (TK WG)  TK Women Restricted (TK WR)
Digital Preservation and Access to Aural Heritage Via a Scalable, Extensible Method
Discussion

1. Are there elements of a successful best practice R&D project that funders are overlooking?

2. What adjustments might be necessary to develop best practices for underrepresented communities?

3. What are preferred methods of demonstrating evaluation and sustainability?

4. How should dissemination and training practitioners factor in the development of best practice projects? Are public white papers a helpful dissemination tool?
Thank you!

https://www.neh.gov/grants/preservation/research-and-development

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PR-253360-17