
NATIONAL



ENDOWMENT

FOR THE HUMANITIES

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

PHOTOCOPY PRESERVATION

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) is an independent federal agency that promotes research, education, preservation and public programs in history, literature, philosophy, foreign languages and other humanities disciplines. Since 1965 the Endowment has encouraged individual and institutional excellence in the humanities by awarding grants that support scholarship in America's schools, colleges, universities, libraries, museums, public television and radio stations and other cultural institutions.

Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

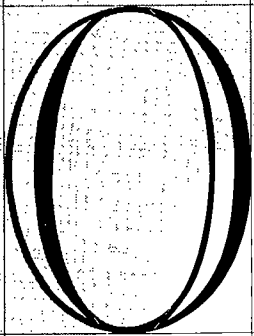
This is not a presidential record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

This marker identifies the place of a publication.

Publications have not been scanned in their entirety for the purpose of digitization. To see the full publication please search online or visit the Clinton Presidential Library's Research Room.

National Endowment for
the Humanities, Overview
of Endowment Programs 1994
Booklet 60 pages

**NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES**



O V E R V I E W

**OF ENDOWMENT
PROGRAMS
1994**

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506



Humanities and Technology Special Initiative

"We can't--and we won't--allow anyone to have
to play catch-up in the information game."
--Vice President Al Gore

The National Endowment for the Humanities, in collaboration with President Clinton's Working Group on Education, Training, and Re-employment, proposes to play a significant role helping the Administration to foster U.S. technological leadership, to provide quality education for all our children and help prepare them for work, to promote lifelong learning among our citizenry, and to make possible the civic networking that gives vitality to a democratic society. Beginning in fiscal year 1996, the National Endowment for the Humanities proposes a three-year Humanities and Technology special initiative that will make a major and direct contribution to the Administration's efforts to build a "National Information Infrastructure" (NII) throughout the United States.

President Clinton's NII plan commits the resources of the federal government to help develop and promote a national high-speed, high-capacity electronic meta-network that will link businesses, libraries, schools, and hospitals across the nation. Significant private sector investment is already placing our knowledge base in the sciences and applied sciences onto the "information highway." The economic benefits of this investment are entirely clear. Not as quantifiable, however, but just as critical, is the importance of ensuring that our nation's cultural and intellectual heritage--the wealth of knowledge and source material in such disciplines as history, literature, languages, comparative religion, and anthropology--is accessible on the highway as well. Offering Americans access to resources in science and math must be coupled with access to the humanities disciplines that strengthen and sustain the education and civic character of our people. The contextual lessons of history, the insights of literature, the cultural definitions of mankind and the extent of human capability are central to the development and civilization of America. A national information infrastructure that is "all pipes" and no content is destined to fail our people. The role of the federal government is limited but crucial: National policies must provide incentives for the research and creativity essential to the development of intellectual content for the NII. The federal challenge, therefore, is to reserve and maintain space for the intellectual content that will constitute the basis for such fundamental benefits as perspective, criticism, clarification, understanding, and meaning.

Increasingly, the nonprofit cultural sector functions as the "research and development" arm for the for-profit entertainment and intellectual property/copyright sectors. More than just consuming new technologies, the humanities and the industries related to them drive technology by generating ideas, by supplying content for the information highway, and by serving as an important testing ground for new ideas--leading to more breakthroughs and drawing critical investment capital into projects. Short term investment in digitized humanities material for the NII will nourish the growth of intellectual property and seed its development in many forms.

The humanities are well positioned to contribute to the digital communications revolution. Indeed, the National Endowment for the Humanities is the only agency in the federal government charged with the creation of intellectual content in the humanistic disciplines. NEH is uniquely poised to add a critical element to the complex mix of information pouring into the pipeline, by creating a **knowledge** (not just information) economy that is vital, meaningful, and accessible to all the nation's citizens.

NEH's Humanities and Technology special initiative, for which we are requesting additional funding of \$25 million annually from FY 1996 through FY 1998, will bring important humanities resources and materials onto the developing information highway and provide wider access to these materials for all Americans. Unfortunately, neither our current appropriation of \$177.381 million nor the \$202.345 million we are requesting for FY 1996 for our regular grant activities would be sufficient to provide the level of monetary resources needed to ensure that humanities content becomes an integral part of the rapidly developing information infrastructure. The special initiative we propose is needed now to ensure that humanities content--and the American people--are not left behind as the NII develops and expands. (See attached table summarizing allocation of this proposed funding among various types of activities.)

The Endowment's experience to date in supporting humanities projects that employ electronic technologies has enabled us to define many critical needs and opportunities for expansion in this area that can only be met with an investment of additional, strategically placed, funds at this time. A vigorous three-year program of significant investment for model, exemplary projects would help to accomplish critical next steps in the development of certain key content and technical areas.

NEH's Humanities and Technology special initiative will be focused on increased support for projects in three areas:

- the application of electronic technologies in teaching the humanities at all levels of the nation's

educational system, including the informal learning settings created by museums, libraries, and public media stations

- the digitization of texts, documents, manuscripts, still and moving images, and sound recordings that will constitute a digital library of humanities resources
- the expansion of public access to the humanities through technology and telecommunications that will multiply the opportunities for Americans to engage in a lifetime of learning and enjoyment of the humanities.

While support would often be provided through our six program divisions, (Education, Public, Preservation and Access, Research, Fellowships and Seminars, and State Programs) we plan to make this an initiative that will encourage applicants to develop proposals that go beyond our regular program boundaries and that would require creative, innovative collaborations among two or more of our divisions. A sampling of some of the projects we would be able to encourage and support under our special initiative includes

- A special program of grants focused on "Teaching with Technology." This program would support projects to develop and field-test interactive educational software and innovative applications of existing software, all in digitized format, for use by teachers of humanities subjects at all levels. Projects would also be funded to train faculty and teachers, particularly those serving low-income students, in effective classroom uses of electronic technologies.
- Significant funding for scholars and institutions to produce humanities research and scholarship electronically and to convert printed and other texts to electronic formats. Such projects would make substantial contributions to the development of a digital library of humanities materials. Projects would be supported to create electronic textbases of historical documents for the Internet covering such fields as, for example, the founding period of American history, African-American history, women and reform movements in American history, and the history of science and technology.
- Support for a series of model projects that will explore the needs that future clients of the NII will have for using digitized humanities resources and reference works. Such projects would recommend the software and protocols that will be necessary to ensure that digitized resources meet the distinctive needs of

educators, public programmers, and scholars in the humanities. We would also provide funding for a series of linked demonstration projects that would design and implement national procedures and standards for the production, storage, and distribution of humanities materials in electronic form. (These projects would not duplicate, but rather complement and expand the current efforts of the National Science Foundation to build a "digital library" of essentially science-related materials).

- Support for innovative projects such as model Interactive Humanities Learning Centers (in libraries, museums, town halls, shopping centers, and other public spaces) in different regions of the country where public audiences would be given practical guidance on the use of the computer to retrieve information, on the tools and types of humanities projects that are available to them in electronic form, and on the creative uses of the new technology to interpret and research larger cultural issues. Other projects would include efforts to use the new technologies to update, combine, or enhance already existing NEH-supported exhibitions, films, or reading and discussion theme packages, greatly expanding the impact and accessibility of these products.
- Support for model demonstration projects by humanities institutions both to document existing collections and to provide interpretations of these collections to the public by means of hypertext systems. These projects would use digital and hypertext technologies to identify, catalogue, and interpret and make accessible to broad audiences primary and secondary source materials (e.g., documents, artifacts, photographs, newspaper accounts, and oral histories) on significant themes in the humanities. Such projects would help to enhance communication between the scholar and the public by providing materials and interpretations simultaneously.
- Support for electronic and on-site follow-up conferences to the numerous NEH-supported summer seminars for school and college teachers. These conferences would enable seminar participants to receive training and practical assistance in how to access electronic resources in the field of the seminar and how to apply these resources in their scholarship and teaching.

- Support for the 56 state humanities councils to foster service as a nationwide network for access, dissemination and local implementation and to link diverse communities and groups. Councils would receive funds, for example, to determine and help evaluate the types of state and local resources that should be digitized and to survey what institutions need to participate fully in the NII.

These are just a few of the digital humanities projects NEH is prepared to fund now that will help the Administration achieve some of the ambitious goals it has mapped out for the NII. Indeed, the Administration's Information Infrastructure Task Force--in its September 1993 publication, The National Information Infrastructure: Agenda for Action--specifically envisions a time when "the vast resources of art, literature, and science [are] available everywhere." This special initiative will specifically address several of the goals for NII articulated in Agenda for Action including: encouraging the active participation of the private sector (Goal 1), ensuring the broadest possible access to information resources (Goal 2), encouraging a variety of innovative information technologies and new applications (Goal 3), and ensuring that users can transfer information across networks easily and efficiently (Goal 4).

We would reiterate that these projects represent a significant enhancement above the minimal level of support we currently are able to provide Endowment-wide for electronic projects. Given the necessity to continue meeting other critical needs in the humanities, we would not be able to provide this additional support for NII-related proposals within our current program allocations or at the budget allocations we are proposing in our official FY 1996 OMB submission. We would also point out that humanities scholars and institutions are fully capable of producing the volume and quality of applications that our initiative presupposes; indeed, many of these projects are now in their beginning stages but cannot proceed because of lack of funding.

The Endowment's NII special initiative also includes funding that will be needed to administer it. Our special request level of \$25 million for FY 1996 includes about \$1.25 million--or just five percent of the total request--in administrative funds. Included in this amount is the cost of adding two FTEs to handle the increased workload and other necessary expenses--such as panelist compensation and travel (we plan to hold interdivisional, Endowment-wide panel meetings to review grant applications received under the initiative), supplies and materials, and equipment--associated with running an enhanced program. This is a lean administrative budget for an initiative of this size; we will be working diligently to redeploy our

current resources as much as possible to try to minimize costs while still maintaining NEH's high standards of quality.

While NEH cannot ensure universal electronic access to humanities materials overnight, this initiative demonstrates the Humanities Endowment's capability to transform the promise of the NII into near-term reality through support of a set of strategic initiatives now. As the Administration continues to emphasize the development of the infrastructure itself, this proposal contributes to the President's parallel concern that content should be part of the federal plan. The need in this area is great; NEH could easily accommodate a much higher level of funding for digital projects in the humanities than the amount we are requesting in our initiative. But with this funding NEH can ensure that quality content provided to the pipeline will strengthen the education and character of those who use it, and will advance the national interest of promoting excellence in education through lifelong learning.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

Humanities and Technology Special Initiative (Estimated Funding for Various Activities)

\$25 million annually for fiscal years 1996, 1997, and 1998

- \$6.25 million for projects that apply electronic technologies to teaching the humanities at all levels of the nation's educational system;
- \$8 million for projects to digitize humanities materials and develop a digital library of humanities resources;
- \$9.5 million for projects that use electronic formats to increase public access to the humanities and expand opportunities for Americans to engage in lifelong learning;
- \$1.25 million for administrative costs associated with the initiative.