• Partnership launched in 2004 in recognition of the need to document the rapid loss of languages.

• Estimates are that half of the world’s 6,000 to 7,000 languages will go extinct in the next 50-100 years.
What is lost?

- Language Diversity
- Cultural Knowledge
- Knowledge about Natural Systems
- Community Identity

In forming DEL, the two agencies acknowledged that endangered languages represent a vast repository of human knowledge about the natural world and cultural traditions.
NEH-NSF Partnership

Through a competitive, peer-review process, the agencies provide at least $4 million annually in DEL awards.

Awards may be:
- Standard or Continuing Grants for institutions of up to 3 years (NEH & NSF)
- Training opportunities, and development of computational tools (NSF)
- Fellowships for individuals of up to 12 months (NEH)
- Doctoral dissertations (NSF)
3 Areas of Emphasis

• **Language Description:** fieldwork, documentation, preparation of dictionaries, grammars, and databases

• **Infrastructure:** digitization and creation of access to documentary materials, workshops, and conferences

• **Computational Methods:** development of standards and tools to make materials widely available in Web-based formats, often in collaboration between theoretical and field linguists and computational linguists
DEL Priority Activities

- Languages with few remaining speakers and little to no documentation
- Fieldwork to record in digital audio and video format
- Preparation of lexicons, grammars, texts, and databases
- Digitization and preservation of previously collected materials
- Training native speakers in documentation practices
- Development of standards and databases
- Advanced digital technologies
NEH Awards Prior to 2005

- Lushootseed Dictionary
- Corpus of Maya Hieroglyphic Inscriptions
- Hopìikwa Lavàytutuveni

Compiled by the Hopi Dictionary Project
• 195 grants and 64 fellowships awarded totaling over $30.2 million

• Projects cover 194 languages from 44 countries

• 112 of these languages are spoken in 17 countries in the Americas

• Approximately 60 of these are Native American languages spoken in the U.S.
DEL Projects Worldwide
DEL Projects in the Americas
Klallam Dictionary and Electronic Archive

University of North Texas
Project Director: Timothy Montler

- Very few remaining first language speakers
- Growing interest among second language speakers
- Poorly documented
- Community requested documentation by the project director
- Database, online dictionary, digital audio and video recordings, texts (digitized, transcribed, translated and analyzed), reformatting of previously recorded video and converting to interactive language study tools
AILLA is a digital archive of recordings and texts in and about the indigenous languages of Latin America. Access to archive resources is free of charge. Most of the resources in the AILLA database are available to the public, but some have special access restrictions.

To get started, read How to Use the Archive, or go directly to the Search page.

Welcome to AILLA

AILLA is a digital archive of recordings and texts in and about the indigenous languages of Latin America. Access to archive resources is free of charge. Most of the resources in the AILLA database are available to the public, but some have special access restrictions.

You will have to Register and Log in order to access any archive resource, but you can browse the catalog information without registering.

To get started, read How to Use the Archive, or go directly to the Search page.

The Collection

The heart of the collection is recordings of naturally-occurring discourse in a wide range of genres, including narratives, ceremonies, stories, conversations, and songs. Many of these recordings are accompanied by transcriptions and translations in either Spanish, English, or Portuguese. These works contain a wealth of information about Latin American indigenous cultures as well as knowledge about the natural environments that the people live in. AILLA also publishes original literary works in indigenous languages, such as poetry, narratives, and essays.

The archive also collects materials about these languages, such as grammars, dictionaries, ethnographies, and research reports. The collection includes materials about bilingual education and language revitalization programs in indigenous communities, such as primers, readers, and textbooks on a variety of subjects, written in indigenous languages.

Our Links page has links to many indigenous organizations that are developing literature, publication, and education projects for their communities.

Mission #1: Preservation

AILLA's primary mission is to preserve recordings made in the indigenous languages of Latin America safely and permanently. There are hundreds of native languages still spoken in Latin America, but they are

http://www.ailla.utexas.org/site/welcome.html
Ixil Maya (Nebaj) Project

Colectivo de Investigación Ixhil

Jule Gómez de García - California State University
Nahuatl Documentation

Jonathan Amith (Gettysburg College) recording Nahuatl speech and filming cultural practices.

Anthology of texts
Documentary Film
Botanical Field Guides
Visit Our Websites

www.neh.gov

www.nsf.gov

www.neh.gov
Resources

- Sample Narratives
- Grant-writing Manual
- NEH Funded Projects
- Query Form
- NSF Fastlane
Grant-writing Manual

# NEH Funded Projects Query Form

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Options/Values</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grant number</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Project director</td>
<td>First name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key words</td>
<td>text analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Organization name</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Field of project</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grant program</td>
<td>Digital Humanities Start-Up Grants*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Division</td>
<td>Digital Humanities*</td>
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<td>Award date range</td>
<td>From</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Actions

- **Display results**
- **Clear form**

## Sort results by...

- Award year
- Ascending
- Descending
NSF Fastlane

http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=12816
Planning your Project

• Select a Language
• Conceptualize your Project
  • Match your project to the grant program
  • Determine the project goal
    • Produce audio and video archival-quality recordings
    • Conduct linguistic fieldwork for “quick” documentation
    • Conduct linguistic fieldwork for language analysis and annotation
    • Produce dictionaries, grammars, narrative collections
    • Produce materials for community use
  • Prepare a work plan
• Talk to your mentors
NSF Evaluation Criteria:

- Intellectual Merit: Does the proposed activity add to our scientific knowledge of language? Does it increase data that can be used by other researchers?

- Broader Impacts: Does the project contribute to communities and society as a whole?

- Transformative ideas: Does the project have the potential to transform the field?
Writing the Application:
Sample Narrative Outline

• Introduction
• Intellectual merit
• Broader merits
• Project objectives
• Project workflow
• Training of community members
• Results from previous grants
• Long range sustainability
• References
• Appendices
Writing the Application: Budget

- Personnel: senior, students, curators, managers
- Consultants
- Language experts/language translators
- Supplies
- Computer Facilities
- Digital Library space
- Travel
• **Data Management Plan:**
  
  - Describe plans for data management and sharing of research products.

• **Postdoctoral Researcher Mentoring Plan:**
  
  - Create supplementary document describing mentoring activities that will be provided for such individuals.
NSF Evaluation Procedures

- Ad-hoc reviews and panel review
- Well-written
- Well conceived /well-organized activity, viable and efficient work plan
- Access to resources
- Qualified proposer (individual or team) and project staff
- Useful and sufficient products
- Appropriate plans for sustaining project outcomes, including digital content
- Thoughtful plans for disseminating information about and providing access to grant products
Strategies for Success

- Read guidelines carefully
- Check eligibility requirements
- Share ideas with peers/previous awardees
- Think about your audience
- Review sample proposals and FAQs
- Call your Program Officer with questions
- If turned down, get comments and reapply
How do I apply?

Step 1:
Visit the NEH website (www.neh.gov) and READ THE GUIDELINES.
Fellowships for Individuals (NEH)

- Individuals, not institutions apply
- 6-12 months fellowships period
- $4,200 / month stipend
- $500,000 commitment for DEL Fellowships
- Activities examples: preparing recordings, transcriptions, databases, grammars, lexicons
- Proposal as a package:
  1. Project (topic, thesis, significance, endangerment, wider impact, historical context, humanities content, innovation, return something to the community)
  2. Proposal (narrative, structure, method, bibliography, data management plan, work plan, outcome, dissemination)
  3. CV (quality of applicant, track record, likelihood of success)
## Small DEL Fellowships statistics

### (2005-2011 64 Fellowships)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total DEL Applications</th>
<th>Fellowships Submitted</th>
<th>Fellowships Funded</th>
<th>%</th>
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<td>2011</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>12</td>
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</table>
FY 2012 Fellowships Winners

- Gagliardi, Ann (University of Maryland), *Acquiring an Endangered Language: A Corpus of Child-Directed and Child-Produced Tsez (Northeast Caucasian language)*

- Gould, Sherry, Independent Scholar, *Inventorying Materials and Recordings of Western Abenaki for Digitization*

- Keegan, John, Independent Scholar, *Sara Language Database Project, Phase 2*

- O’Connor, Catherine, Boston University, *Documentation of Northern Pomo*

- Shimelman, Independent Scholar, *Documentation of Five Southern Dialects of Yauyos*

- Vallejos, University of Oregon, Eugene, *Kokama: Trilingual Dictionary, Pedagogical Grammar, and Text Corpus with Video Files*
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