Digitizing Hidden Special Collections and Archives
Enabling New Scholarship Through Increasing Access to Unique Materials

Field notes from natural science expeditions... Early recordings of Appalachian folk songs... The personal papers of Gabriel García Márquez... Records of the history of segregation and integration in Arkansas schools... these are just a sampling of the resources that are becoming available online with support from CLIR's Digitizing Hidden Special Collections and Archives program.

Collections is a national competition for digitizing collections of rare and unique content in cultural memory institutions and making them available to users.

Over the past three years, CLIR has awarded grants of between $50,000 and $500,000 to 49 institutions or groups of institutions holding special collections of high scholarly value. A review panel, comprising scholars from a range of disciplines and experts in metadata standards, intellectual property, privacy and ethics, and digital preservation, evaluates proposals and recommends award recipients.

Proposals for 2018 are currently being reviewed and recipients will be announced in early January 2019.

AT A GLANCE
Next call for proposals: January 2019
Number of awards in 2017: 14
Total funds available in 2018: $4 million
Website: https://www.clir.org/fellowships/hiddencollections
Contact: hiddencollections@clir.org

A list of funded projects is available at https://www.clir.org/hiddencollections/funded-projects
PROGRAM GOALS
The program coheres around six core values:

- **Scholarship**: maximize the impact on the creation and dissemination of new knowledge;
- **Comprehensiveness**: support digitization projects that will provide thorough coverage of important topics of high interest to scholars, in ways that help those scholars understand digitized sources’ provenance and context;
- **Connectedness**: make digitized sources easily discoverable and accessible alongside related materials;
- **Collaboration**: promote strategic partnerships rather than duplication of capacity and effort;
- **Sustainability**: promote best practices for ensuring the long-term availability and discoverability of files created through digitization; and
- **Openness**: ensure that digitized content will be made available to the public as easily and completely as possible, given ethical and legal constraints.

RELATED RESOURCES
A range of proposal planning resources, including applicant toolkit videos, sample proposals, and FAQs are available at https://www.clir.org/hiddencollections/applicant-resources/.

_Innovation, Collaboration and Models: Proceedings of the CLIR Cataloging Hidden Special Collections and Archives Symposium_, March 2015. The volume documents the capstone event to the seven-year Cataloging Hidden Special Collections and Archives program, precursor to the Digitizing Hidden Special Collections and Archives program. Papers by past project staff and PIs cover a range of topics on working with hidden collections.