Call for Proposals
Library Enhancement Program in the Humanities (2015)

The Center for the Humanities & the Public Sphere, with the support of the Robert and Margaret Rothman Endowment for the Humanities, is making several grants available to faculty members and graduate students at the University of Florida. These grants provide award amounts up to $5,000 for the acquisition of library resources, print, digital, or audio-visual media, in a field of study in or related to the humanities disciplines but not currently well-served by the University’s collections. These resources are intended to enhance scholarly research and teaching in the humanities as well as affiliated fields (as defined on the Humanities Center’s website).

In addition to providing an explanation of the disciplinary or multi-disciplinary needs to be met by these purchases, individual or collective applicants are asked to submit to the Center an itemized bibliography, filmography, or detailed description of the items to be digitized, with a rough estimate of the cost of each of these works. Graduate student applicants for this grant program must have a faculty sponsor write a letter in support of the need for the acquisitions.

Applicants should ascertain before applying whether the requested items are already owned by the University of Florida libraries. In the case of digital acquisitions, the applicant should work in advance with Dr. Laurie Taylor, librarian of UF’s Digital Collections, to see if the proposed plan is feasible from the perspective of the UF Libraries. (Applicants for digital archives are also encouraged to view the following document: “Recommendations for Researchers Digitizing Onsite and on a Budget in Archives and Libraries.”) In areas in which sufficient funds already exist to make such purchases, these resources should be used prior to those of the Center. (To determine the last matter, please consult with your area librarian.) Funds in the grant may be used for material costs incurred in the purchase and processing of materials and related travel expenses or for OPS funds to hire part-time graduate students, but not for salary or salary replacement.

Priority will be given to applicants who do not have access to start-up funds or endowed research accounts and who have not been awarded a library enhancement grant in the recent past. Requests that could potentially serve existing constituencies of the University beyond the immediate applicants will likewise be ranked more highly than those that do not. Whenever possible, proposed acquisitions should also benefit students at the University of Florida and/or members of the community. Funds from this grant may not be used for the purchase of textbooks or for subscriptions to journals or databases. Applicants interested in more extensive collaborations with UF Library faculty on bibliographic, exhibition, or other projects are advised to explore alternative or matching funding possibilities with the biannual UF Smathers Library Mini Grant program: http://guides.uflib.ufl.edu/content.php?pid=215478&sid=2670029.

Proposal Format
The Center is soliciting proposals due Friday, 5 December 2014 so that requested materials may be purchased by the appropriate libraries in Summer 2015. Proposals should be no more than two pages in length apart from the budget page(s) with a representative list (at least 50%) of the specific items to be purchased; the final list will be solicited from the applicant(s) if the grant is awarded. The proposal must address the following matters:

1. the specific project or field(s) the resources will support;
2. how the acquisitions will complement or extend existing library collections;
3. the potential constituencies that will benefit from the purchases;
4. a separate, detailed, and ranked list of at least half of the desired acquisitions and an estimate of the total cost.
Proposal Due Date
Friday, 5 December 2014 5:00 PM

Please submit proposals as a single pdf file by electronic attachment to the Rothman Chair and Director, Bonnie Effros, at humanities-center@ufl.edu. We strongly encourage applicants with non-traditional or digital proposals to write to Prof. Effros at the same email address in advance with draft proposals. (These drafts must be submitted no later than a week prior to the grant deadline.) Applicants will be notified in late January 2015 regarding the status of their proposals.