

Endangered Archives Programme

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Funded by Arcadia



eap.bl.uk

The Endangered Archives Programme facilitates the digitisation of archives around the world that are in danger of destruction, neglect or physical deterioration. Thanks to generous funding from Arcadia, a charitable fund of Lisbet Rausing and Peter Baldwin, we have provided grants to more than 400 projects in 90 countries worldwide, in over 100 languages and scripts.

Since 2004, the Programme has digitised over seven million images and 25 thousand sound tracks. Archive types digitised so far include rare printed sources, manuscripts, visual materials, audio recordings. This continually expanding online collection is available freely through local archival partners and the EAP website, for research, inspiration and enjoyment.



doi.org/10.15130/EAP454
Ecclesiastical documents from Mizoram, India.



doi.org/10.15130/EAP692
Temple art of Tamil Nadu, India.



doi.org/10.15130/EAP602
Audio recordings from Sherif Harar City Museum, Ethiopia.

Cover: doi.org/10.15130/EAP488 Digitising manuscripts in Djenné, Mali.

Grants

Each year the Programme awards grants to researchers to identify and preserve culturally important archives. Applicants are encouraged, where appropriate, to incorporate professional development and training within their proposals. The original archival material will not leave the country of origin (unless there are exceptional reasons for doing so).



doi.org/10.15130/EAP644 Digitising the Maison Bonfils photographs, Lebanon.

There are four types of grant available:

- **Pilot project**
Pilot grants are up to **£15,000** and last less than a year. Individual researchers may apply for funds to assess the necessity, importance and feasibility of preserving a particular archive. Usually this will produce an in-depth survey and sample digitisation. Successful pilot projects are often encouraged to subsequently apply for a major grant. Small scale digitisation projects would also be considered pilot projects.
- **Major projects**
Major grants are up to **£60,000** and last to a maximum of 24 months. Individual researchers may apply for funds to locate relevant collections, arrange transfer of the documents to a suitable local archival home where appropriate, and to digitise the material.
- **Area grants**
Area grants may be awarded for larger-scale projects. They are similar to a major grant, but larger in scale and ambition. Applicants must demonstrate a strong track record of archival preservation work and be associated with an institution that has the capacity to facilitate a large-scale project. They can last for up to 24 months and have a budget limit of **£150,000**. Contact the EAP office in advance if you are considering applying for this type of grant.
- **Rapid response grants**
Rapid response grants may be used to safeguard an archive that is in immediate and severe danger. These grants are intended for the situations in which the time scale of the standard EAP decision process could result in extensive damage to the material. Applicants are accepted on a rolling basis. They must last for less than six months and have a budget limit of **£10,000**.

Criteria

The Programme aims to help preserve material located in areas where resources and opportunities to preserve such material are lacking or limited.

The EAP has a very broad interpretation of the word 'archive' and has funded projects related to:

- Rare printed sources (books, serials, newspapers, ephemera, etc.)
- Manuscripts
- Visual materials (drawings, paintings, prints, posters, photographs)
- Audio and video recordings
- Other objects and artefacts – but normally only where they are found in association within a documentary archive

The Programme is not intended for the purpose of digitising an institution's collection *en masse*.

Application Process

Applications are considered by an international panel of historians and archivists on an annual basis. Rapid response grants can be submitted at any time. For Pilot, Major or Area grants, the schedule is:

- **Preliminary applications**
September – early November
- **Invitation to submit a full application**
December – February
- **Announcement of final decision**
May – early June

The Programme's forms and guidelines and can be found on the Endangered Archives Programme's website.

Contact Information

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Endangered Archives Programme



doi.org/10.15130/EAP650
Archiving Afro-Colombian history.