

Fall 2008

Dear Colleague:

Enclosed please find sample narratives, schedule of completion, and summary budget forms from successful applications from the 2008 IMLS National Leadership Grant (NLG) competition. This packet contains samples that represent different types of projects from successful grantees in the four categories: Advancing Digital Resources, Demonstration, Research, and Library Museum Collaboration. The 2009 grant cycle will be the second year conservation and preservation research are priorities in the NLG competition. The applications emphasize creation of a national model and its dissemination to the larger museum and library field. Each of the samples was selected to illustrate a specific aspect of a good application in any category, as described below:

Museum Examples:

Project Grant - Advancing Digital Resources

New Media Centers

Steve in Action: Social Tagging Tools and Methods Applied

This application is included as an example of a project that takes research and applies the information through broad field testing in a variety of museum environments. This project is a good example of test-bed construction, and the national impact is an excellent use of multiple institutions working together to solve a problem.

Project Grant - Demonstration

COSI Columbus

Labs in Life Interface: Bringing Real Science to Public Audiences

This application is included as an example of a strategic partnership with a university. Through this partnership, visitors participate as both research subjects and researchers. This applications also demonstration the need and value of the partnership, and this partnership model is what is being created for dissemination in other museums.

Project Grant - Research

San Diego Zoo

Infectious Disease Control and Bioresource Banking for the Amphibian Extinction Crisis.

This application is included as an example of living collection research. This research is based on standards and sampling across animal populations, and will establish protocols based on best practices within the zoological field.

Collaborative Planning Grant - Demonstration

Santa Barbara Botanical Garden

Assessing the Need for a Model Irrigation Project

This planning grant application is included as an example of establishing benchmark steps for planning and testing, and clearly explains what the possible NLG application could be for future submission.

Library Examples:

Project Grant - Advancing Digital Resources

New York Public Library Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations

Homework NYC Widgets: A Decentralized Approach To Homework Help By Public Libraries

This application is included as an example of a project that builds off of activities previously funded by and IMLS planning grant. It has a thorough needs assessment and provides a good example of project design and evaluation narrative. Applicant clearly communicates the benefits to numerous communities.

Project Grant - Demonstration

**University of Florida, Center for Library Automation
Towards Interoperable Preservation Repositories (TIPR)**

A great example of a collaborative partnership between geographically diverse organizations. This application is a good example of the demonstration category as it builds upon previous research activity and existing best practices. It seeks to take theory into practice, monitoring the results and evaluating the process. The activities are clearly lined out and the applicant efficiently communicates the goals.

Project Grant - Research

**University of North Texas, School of Library and Information Sciences, Texas Center for Digital Knowledge
High-Throughput Workflow for Computer-Assisted Human Parsing of Biological Specimen Label Data**

Although highly technical, this application is effectively written and is accessible to even the layman reader. It decisively states the research problem, the specific research questions being explored in the project and the expected deliverables. Its project plan is clear and communicates definitively each step of the project. The dissemination section identifies the broad audience for this research and specific venues for sharing research results, including a project website.

Project Grant – Library and Museum Collaboration

**Oregon Museum of Science and Industry
Beyond Fact: Making Science Accessible Through Dialogue and Deliberation**

This application is provided as an example of a library and museum collaboration with a clear partnership agreement on issues like division of responsibilities. The benefits to both organizations from this partnership are explicitly defined. Additionally, the proposal includes ample details on anticipated impacts of the proposed activity, an evaluation strategy, and plans for dissemination and sustainability.

Collaborative Planning Grant – Advancing Digital Resources

**University of Oregon Libraries
Planning for Northwest-Wide Access to Digitized Primary Sources**

This application is a good example of a large-scale collaboration. It has a solid needs assessment and clearly defined goals for the project.

I hope that these sample narratives will be useful to you as models for structuring a proposal for your institutional needs. If you have questions, please contact either Dan Lukash at (202) 653-4644, dlukash@imls.gov or Jennifer Headley at (202) 653-4702, jheadley@imls.gov for museum led projects and for library led projects contact Rachel Frick at (202)-653-4667, rfrick@imls.gov or Mary Allen at (202)653-4687, mallen@imls.gov. We would be happy to assist you and discuss any questions you have as you develop your proposal. The application deadline for the 2009 National Leadership Grant program is February 1, 2009.

Applications for NLG are available from the grants.gov website (www.grants.gov). We look forward to receiving your application.