



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

Humanities Nebraska

Between 2006 and 2010, institutions and individuals in Nebraska received \$6.9 million from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Nebraska Humanities Council for projects that explore the human endeavor and preserve our cultural heritage. Below are some examples.

- Two hundred thousand pages of historic newspapers published between 1860 and 1922, such as the *Omaha Daily Bee* and the *Red Cloud Chief*, are being digitized by the University of Nebraska and the Nebraska State Historical Society. Supported by a \$563,000 grant, this work comes as part of the **National Digital Newspaper Project**, an NEH–Library of Congress partnership.
- The **Joslyn Art Museum, Omaha**, has received a \$150,000 research grant to support an annotated translation of *The North American Journals of Prince Maximilian of Wied*. In the 1830s Maximilian journeyed up the Missouri River, writing three volumes of notes on native cultures, flora, and fauna.
- Assisted by a \$166,400 education grant, **Nebraska Wesleyan University, Lincoln**, held two K–12 teacher seminars in 2010 on the topic “Shifting Power on the Plains.” Participants worked with historians, curators, and master teachers at historic Fort Robinson, learning about the Great Plains’ role in the shaping of modern America.
- Supported by a \$300,000 grant, the **Walt Whitman Archive**, at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, has prepared a scholarly electronic edition of Whitman’s Civil War writings. Hundreds of letters, poems, articles, and notebooks have been edited and published online, many for the first time.
- Assisted by a \$500,000 challenge grant, **Nebraska Educational Telecommunications** is building a digital humanities endowment to preserve and repurpose its library of television and radio productions for broadcast and online audiences. The collection encompasses fifty-five years of Nebraska-focused programming.
- By connecting distant places, railroads linked great numbers of people, towns, and markets in a vast process of economic and social change. Researchers at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, working with colleagues at the University of Portsmouth, received a \$99,500 grant to **integrate data on railroad development in the Great Plains and Northeast** in order to visualize this complex historical process.
- Last year saw Nebraska’s thirteenth annual **Capitol Forum on America’s Future**, a discussion program in which high school students reflect on domestic and global issues among their peers and members of the state’s congressional delegation. Students from twenty-eight high schools from across the state participated.
- In 2005, the Nebraska Humanities Council adopted **Nebraska’s Changing Population**, a multiyear initiative exploring demographic changes shaping the state such as urbanization, suburbanization, the immigrant influx, and the aging of Nebraska’s population.
- **The Nebraska Book Festival, held annually in Lincoln**, features readings from local authors’ works, a luncheon honoring the Nebraska Book Award winners, free writing workshops, and panel discussions. The Nebraska Humanities Council and the Nebraska Center for the Book are cosponsors.



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

Humanities Nationwide

NEH supports programs and projects that contribute directly and dramatically to the cultural life and historical perspective of tens of millions of Americans. Here are a few examples.

PRESERVING THE FIRST DRAFT OF HISTORY

Nothing captures the character of a community or the spirit of an era better than its newspapers. *Chronicling America*, a partnership between NEH and the Library of Congress, is digitizing millions of pages taken from newspapers dating back to the early Republic, making it possible to search the pages online for any word or phrase—at no charge.

AMERICAN VOICES

The papers of prominent Americans are a vital part of our cultural heritage, and NEH funds many projects to assemble and preserve them, including complete sets of collected papers for ten presidents from Washington to Lincoln to Eisenhower as well as public figures such as Thomas Edison, Martin Luther King, Jr., George Marshall, Emily Dickinson, Walt Whitman, and Mark Twain.

SUCCEEDING BY THE BOOK

Over the past forty-five years, scholars supported by Endowment grants have produced 7,000 books—including numerous classics such as Dumas Malone's *Jefferson and His Time*, James McPherson's *Battle Cry of Freedom*, and Louis Menand's *The Metaphysical Club: A Story of Ideas in America*—that have garnered scores of awards, including 18 Pulitzer Prizes.

PAST AND PRESENT IN PIXELS

NEH investments in the “digital humanities” make it possible for a student to walk the corridors of the Temple of Karnak in ancient Egypt in virtual 3D, or to visit the 1964–65 World's Fair held in New York. Spectral imaging is being used to create an online critical edition of explorer David Livingstone's previously unreadable field diary.

GENERATING PRIVATE SUPPORT

More than \$1.66 billion in humanities support has been generated by the Challenge Grants program, which requires recipients to raise \$3 or \$4 in outside funds for every federal dollar they receive.

HISTORY ON SCREEN AND IN TOWN

NEH-supported films, grounded in scholarly research, bring history alive. For example, twenty million Americans watched Ken Burns's seven-part *The War* (2007), and teachers made extensive use of *The Buddha*. NEH also funds hundreds of exhibitions—not only blockbusters such as “King Tut” that make the wonders and heritage of other cultures accessible to the American public, but also smaller projects such as *Lincoln, the Constitution, and the Civil War* that reached classrooms across the country.

KEEPING TEACHERS UP TO DATE

Seminars, institutes, and workshops give teachers the opportunity to refresh and deepen their knowledge about the humanities through intense study. In the past three years, more than 2,500 college teachers and 7,000 schoolteachers have participated in NEH-supported programs, to the benefit of more than one million students.

REACHING ACROSS THE NATION

Last year state humanities councils, NEH's affiliates in the fifty states, the District of Columbia and five U.S. territories put on 17,700 reading and discussion programs, 5,700 literacy programs, 5,800 speakers bureau presentations, 5,800 conferences, 2,300 Chautauqua events, 7,120 media programs, and 7,600 technology, preservation, and local history events. The 56 councils also sponsored 4,600 exhibitions.