



FACT SHEET

Preservation/Conservation of Library & Archival Materials

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This program will support the preservation/conservation of library and/or archival research materials with significant research value, including informational materials in print, non-print, manuscript, or other format or medium. Eligible materials include books, journals, newspapers, manuscripts, records, photographic prints and negatives, sound recordings, maps, architectural drawings, and other materials whose primary value is informational. Research value is defined as long-term significance. Age, aesthetic interest, or the degree of deterioration will not, unto themselves, argue effectively for preservation if research values cannot also be established. The completion of a Preservation Assessment and a library Preservation Long-Range Plan are required to be eligible for this program.

Eligible project activities include, but are not limited to, conservation treatment by a qualified conservator or conservation treatment facility of eligible research materials with significant artifactual, intrinsic, informational, and/or evidentiary value; preservation microfilming of eligible materials according to current ANSI standards; the digitization and creation of preservation microfilm from the scans; preservation of photographic formats and the creation of prints and negatives as part of this process; the binding, matting, boxing, or other protective enclosures for preserved materials; and, special shelving or storage furnishing for special format materials or for materials that will receive conservation treatment as part of a funded project and subsequently require special storage. Proof of ownership will be required for any project that involves the direct treatment of materials.

Funded projects will require a commitment on the part of the library to return conserved materials to a storage location that is environmentally controlled with a relatively constant temperature, relative humidity, light, Ultra-Violet radiation and air quality levels based, in-so-far as is possible, on the recommended standards for the materials involved.

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

Any library or cooperating group that meets standard eligibility requirements for Direct Grant programs may apply. A cooperating group may apply on behalf of one or more of its members. To apply for funds, a library or cooperating group must have completed a Preservation Assessment within the past five years and developed a Preservation Long-Range Plan based on the consultant's assessment report.

PRIORITIES AND FUNDING

Under this program priority will be given to materials of local, state, regional, or national importance that contribute to an understanding of our historic and cultural heritage. Preference will be given to collections in the following order and subject areas: 1) collections documenting significant Massachusetts historical, geographical, cultural, economic, and natural developments and/or collections with direct application and relevance to Massachusetts; 2) unique collections representing resources unavailable in any other repository; and 3) collections located in Massachusetts repositories that provide a unique and/or cohesive resource, independent of subject area. Libraries will be awarded grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$30,000.

INTERESTED?

Applicants must submit a Letter of Intent form with the "Preservation/Conservation of Library and Archival Materials" option checked off. If you need more information about this program, contact Gregor Trinkaus-Randall at the MBLC, 1-800-952-7403 ext. 236, or by e-mail at gregor.trinkaus-randall@state.ma.us.

BACKGROUND

The documentary heritage of Massachusetts is essentially intact from its founding. Throughout the Commonwealth, repositories house irreplaceable collections of books, as well as private and public documents that serve as a rich resource for researchers involved in local, state, regional, national, and international studies. Library staffs in public libraries, academic libraries and other repositories have long collected materials that document their immediate and adjoining locales, as well as focusing on specific collecting areas. Although much of this material is monographs and pamphlets, a significant portion is manuscript material (personal and organizational papers), photographs, posters, ticket stubs, broadsides, etc. Many of these collections are in need of conservation work to prolong their lives and to enable them to be handled.

2013-2017 MASSACHUSETTS LONG RANGE PLAN GOAL & OBJECTIVE

Goal 2: Improve access to library services and resources for all residents of the Commonwealth.

Objective 3: Ensure access to the literary treasures of Massachusetts by preserving source materials in their original format, reformatting or copying materials at risk of loss. Support the digitization of historical and other significant resource materials. Offer training for disaster preparedness and provide assistance to libraries needing help after a disaster.