

Conserving and Digitizing Library and Archival Material

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This program will support the conservation of library and archival research materials with significant long-term research value. 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 meets recommended standards for materials involved. Libraries will also need to provide a current finding aid for the collection based on current practices recommended by the Society of American Archivists.

Libraries that choose to include a digitization component for their project must follow all appropriate and applicable standards and best practices. It is expected that libraries will maintain digital files and make them available to researchers for the foreseeable future both in-house and through the Digital Commonwealth.

To apply for this program, a library must have completed a Preservation Assessment within the past five years and developed a Preservation Long-Range Plan based on this assessment.

ELIGIBILITY

Any library that meets standard eligibility requirements for Direct Grant programs may apply.

INTERESTED?

Applicants must submit a Letter of Intent form with the “Conserving & Digitizing Library & Archival Material” option checked off. If you need more information about this program, contact Evan Knight at the MBLC at 1-800-952-7403 ext. 250 or by e-mail at evan.knight1@state.ma.us.

BACKGROUND

The 2011 report *Massachusetts Connecting Collections Statewide Preservation Survey* noted severe deficiencies in preservation of Massachusetts collections. Conservation work can address these gaps and prolong the lives of these collections. Digitizing these unique collections provides access locally and remotely and increases opportunities for use and discovery.