

**Information and application form** (*Postmark deadline: December 14, 2001*)

# **Frankenstein: Penetrating the Secrets of Nature**

## **A Traveling Exhibition for Libraries**

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The National Library of Medicine (NLM) of the U.S. National Institutes of Health and the American Library Association (ALA) announce a tour to 40 libraries of a new traveling exhibition called "Frankenstein: Penetrating the Secrets of Nature," based upon a larger exhibit previously presented by the NLM.

The development of the traveling exhibit and the tour are funded in part by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Applications for the tour are invited from public, academic, and medical libraries. All libraries selected for the tour will receive a grant of \$1,000 from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Through the exhibit, audiences will be encouraged to examine the intent of Mary Shelley's novel, *Frankenstein*, and to discuss Shelley's and their own views about personal and societal responsibility as it relates to science and other areas of life.

### **Exhibit overview**

This project includes the exhibition as well as interpretive and educational materials that help libraries examine Mary Shelley's novel, *Frankenstein*, and how it uses scientific experimentation as metaphor to comment on cultural values, especially the importance of exercising responsibility toward individuals and the community in all areas of human activity, including science.

Among questions raised by the novel and the exhibit are: What is the nature of being "human"? How important are our connections with other living beings, and what are our responsibilities to them, especially those less fortunate than ourselves? What is the nature of power and what are the consequences of its misuse?

The six main sections of the exhibition focus on 1) the novel itself; its metaphorical aspects; and the literary, scientific and political environment that influenced Mary Shelley as she created the scientist and his monster; the complexities of Shelley's monster—his sensitivity and yearning for acceptance into the human community; 2) the focus of scientific development in the late 18th and early 19th centuries on reanimation and resuscitation of the dead; and the belief that the world's problems could be solved through science; 3) passages from the novel and how they illuminate the dilemmas raised by Dr. Frankenstein's ability to create life and his failure to take responsibility for what he has created; 4) the interpretations and distortions of the Frankenstein story in the 19th and 20th centuries in various media, such as theatre, political cartoons, and film; and the uses of the

Frankenstein metaphor in the political and scientific spheres; 5) popular scientific developments in the 1930s when the Frankenstein films attracted a large following, including the glass heart co-developed by Charles Lindbergh and cardiac pace-makers; and 6) contrasts between science as conducted in Mary Shelley's novel and science as it is pursued in the 21st century, and the ways citizens and experts negotiate the moral and social boundaries of acceptable science, especially in controversial areas such as cloning.

### **Requirements for libraries**

All libraries chosen for the exhibition tour are required to:

- Present a program led by a scholar in the humanities focusing on Shelley's novel, *Frankenstein*, and its major humanistic themes; libraries are encouraged to apply to state humanities councils for honoraria for lecturers and/or discussion leaders.
- Sponsor an opening event for the exhibition (may be combined with the required program).
- In the case of academic and medical libraries, present a plan for including public audiences beyond their customary user groups in exhibit viewing and programs.
- Show they have sufficient space to display the exhibition--1,000 square feet in one area of the library is preferred—and that they can provide security for the exhibit, i.e., monitor the exhibit at least every half-hour during peak times and every hour at less busy times.
- Charge no fees for viewing the exhibit.
- Provide required reports, including an exhibit condition report and a final report, to sponsors.
- Appoint one staff member as the local coordinator of the exhibit. The coordinator will attend an exhibit planning seminar in Washington, D.C., in May 2002.

### **What tour libraries will receive**

Libraries selected for the tour will receive:

- The traveling exhibit for a six-week loan period.
- A \$1,000 exhibition grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.
- Exhibit posters and brochures.
- Access to online planning materials on web site.
- Insurance coverage for reasonable damages to the exhibit. Libraries may be held responsible for extensive damages or loss of the exhibit when it is under their control.
- An online Site Support Notebook with press materials, art, shipping and installation instructions, suggestions for programming, and more.
- Expenses for the exhibit coordinator to attend the planning seminar in Washington, D.C.

### **APPLICATION FORM FOLLOWS**

POSTMARK DEADLINE: December 14, 2001

APPLICATION COVER SHEET

**Frankenstein: Penetrating the Secrets of Nature**

Presented by  
The National Library of Medicine and the American Library Association  
with funding from The National Endowment for the Humanities

Library Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Coordinator Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Coordinator Title: \_\_\_\_\_

If Coordinator not Director, Director's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Library Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Library City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Library Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Library Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Library E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Library home page: <http://www.> \_\_\_\_\_

Size of service population: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Budget (main and branches): \_\_\_\_\_

Coordinator's Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Coordinator's Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Coordinator's E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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Library Director (type name)

Signature

Date

Please attach this cover sheet to your application and return the original and four copies of the cover sheet and the application, **postmarked by December 14, 2001** (no faxes, please) to:

Frankenstein Applications  
American Library Association  
Public Programs Office  
50 E. Huron St.  
Chicago, IL 60611

## **APPLICATION FORM**

(also found at <http://www.ala.org/publicprograms>)

**Please respond to the following questions (use no more than five pages). Number your responses to correspond to the questions or repeat the questions. Attach the application cover sheet to your responses before submission.**

1. Why would your library like to display "Frankenstein: Penetrating the Secrets of Nature"? Please describe unique collections and local resources and interests related to the exhibition, and other organizations that will help you to support this exhibition (support letters encouraged).
2. Libraries displaying "Frankenstein" must commit themselves to an opening reception and a public program based upon Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*. Beyond that, what other ideas do you have for programs related to the exhibition themes. Letters of intent from individuals or groups you plan to work with are encouraged.
3. Describe the audience you will target and how you will publicize the exhibition to that audience. If you are an academic or medical library, describe how you will ensure that the public beyond your own user community will see the exhibit and attend programs.
4. Describe the space your library has available for exhibitions. "Frankenstein" will require 1,000 square feet of floor space. If possible, include a floor plan of the proposed exhibit space.
5. What is the scope of your current (i.e., within the past year) adult cultural programming, including type and frequency (e.g., book discussion weekly, annual fall lecture series on local history).
6. Has your library participated in (in last five years) or is it scheduled to participate in any other ALA traveling exhibitions? If so, please list title and dates of display.
7. Libraries will have the exhibition for six weeks. Are there any dates between October 1, 2002 and December, 2005, that you would prefer to display the exhibition, or cannot display the exhibition? We will try to accommodate selected libraries' requests, but WE CANNOT GUARANTEE REQUESTED DATES.

**THANK YOU.**