

The state of the state

Archival Collections Assessment

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What is collections assessment?

- Systematic, purposeful gathering of information about archival collections
 - “Census” of collections
- Can consist of both qualitative and quantitative data
- *Designed to help institution act strategically*

Why collections assessment?





Why collections assessment?

Too much to do, too many possible directions!

- Cataloging & Processing (backlogs)
- Digitization
- Preservation
- Collection management

However, *what to tackle* highly dependant on *local context*

Priorities shaped by resources and opportunities

Why collections assessment?



Why collections assessment?



What we know about collections assessment

Taking Stock and Making Hay: Archival Collections Assessment

Martha O'Hara Conway

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A publication of OCLC Research

bit.ly/rbms_assess

(pro tip! Google “taking stock and making hay”)

What we know about collections assessment

- You can do this!
- There are models, techniques and tools for you to use
- A growing community of institutions and practitioners
- Doesn't require special skills



What we know about collections assessment

- A range of institutions have used collections assessment for
 - Dealing with the backlog (processing, cataloging)
 - Prioritizing for preservation
 - Collection management
 - Making a case for funding



What we know about collections assessment

- Opportunities spaces?
 - Digitization and risk analysis
 - Assessing “born digital” needs
 - Collaborative uses



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE
Humanities

DIVISION OF **PRESERVATION AND ACCESS**

**HUMANITIES
COLLECTIONS AND
REFERENCE RESOURCES**

Deadline: July 19, 2012 (for projects beginning May 2013)

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 45.149

Items referred to in this document needed to complete your application:

- Budget instructions
- Budget form
- Grants.gov application package and instructions

Also see the **application checklist** at the end of this document.

Questions?

Contact the staff of NEH's Division of Preservation and Access at preservation@neh.gov and 202-606-8370. Hearing-impaired applicants can contact NEH via TDD at 1-866-372-2930.

Foundations program:
“...grants of up to \$40,000 will support planning, assessment, and pilot activities that incorporate expertise from a mix of professional domains.”

Collections Assessment in Action!

