

Endangered Archives Programme

Call for applications 2007

The Endangered Archives Programme at the British Library is now accepting applications for the next round of funding. Detailed information on the timetable, criteria, eligibility and procedures for applying for a grant is available on the Programme's website. **The deadline for receipt of preliminary applications is 2 November 2007.**

The Programme has funded nearly 70 projects in 37 countries, totalling £1.7 million, since its establishment three years ago. The Programme is funded by Arcadia, in pursuit of its general aim to support fundamental research into important issues in the humanities and social science. The focus of the Programme is on the preservation and copying of important but vulnerable archives throughout the world.

The aim is to safeguard archival material relating to societies before 'modernisation' or 'industrialisation' had generated institutional and record-keeping structures for the systematic preservation of historical records, very broadly defined. The relevant time period will therefore vary according to the society. The Programme is completely open as to theme and regional interest, although applications concerned with non-western societies are particularly welcomed.

The Programme's objectives are achieved principally by making a number of grants to individual researchers to locate relevant collections, to arrange their transfer to suitable local archival home where possible, and to deliver copies to the British Library and a local institution for the benefit of researchers worldwide. Pilot projects are particularly welcomed, to investigate the survival of archival collections on a particular subject, in a discrete region, or in a specific format, and the feasibility of their recovery.

For the purposes of the Programme, archives will be interpreted widely to include not only rare printed sources (books, serials, newspapers, ephemera) and manuscripts, but also visual materials (drawings, paintings, prints, posters, photographs), audio or video recordings and digital data. In all cases, the validity of archival materials for inclusion in the Programme will be assessed by their relevance as source materials for the pre-industrial stage of a society's history.

The Programme does not offer grants to support the normal running activities of an archive, although the Programme may offer support for such items as costs directly related to the acceptance of relocated material.

The Programme is administered by the British Library and applications are considered in an annual competition by an international panel of historians and archivists.

For further details of the projects funded to date as well as application procedures, please visit the Programme's website.

Web: www.bl.uk/endangeredarchives

Email: endangeredarchives@bl.uk

Ongoing projects in South Asia:

Bhutan

Digital documentation of manuscript collection in Gangtey Dr K Phuntsho, Aris Trust Centre, University of Oxford - Bhutan.

<http://www.bl.uk/about/policies/endangeredarch/phuntsho.html>

The digital documentation of manuscripts at Drametse and Ogyen Choling Dr K Phuntsho, Aris Trust Centre - Bhutan.

<http://www.bl.uk/about/policies/endangeredarch/2006/kphuntsho.html>

India

Survey, conservation and archiving of pre-1947 Telugu printed materials and paintings in India Professor M Atlury, Sundarayya Vigna Kendram - Andhra Pradesh, India. <http://www.bl.uk/about/policies/endangeredarch/atlury.html>

Archiving texts in the Sylhet Nagri script Professor A Chanda, Jadavpur University - India. <http://www.bl.uk/about/policies/endangeredarch/2006/chanda.html>

Archiving 'popular market' Bengali books Professor S Chaudhuri, Jadavpur University - India.

<http://www.bl.uk/about/policies/endangeredarch/2007/chaudhuri.html>

Preserving Marathi manuscripts and making them accessible Professor A Feldhaus, Arizona State University - Maharashtra State, India.

<http://www.bl.uk/about/policies/endangeredarch/feldhaus.html>

Digital archive of north Indian classical music Professor A Das Gupta, Jadavpur University - India.

<http://www.bl.uk/about/policies/endangeredarch/2007/gupta.html>

Endangered Urdu periodicals: preservation and access for vulnerable scholarly resources Mr J Nye, Center for South Asian Libraries - India.

<http://www.bl.uk/about/policies/endangeredarch/mailk.html>

Nepal

Feasibility survey of documenting selected 18th-20th century written heritage from Nepal Dr R Dhungel, SOAS, University of London – Nepal.

<http://www.bl.uk/about/policies/endangeredarch/2007/dhungel.html>

Preservation through digitisation of rare negatives and photographs from Nepal Mr K Dixit, Madan Puraskar Pustakalaya - Nepal.

<http://www.bl.uk/about/policies/endangeredarch/2007/dixit.html>

Preservation of historic and rare Nepali monographs and periodicals Mr KM Dixit, Madan Puraskar Pustakalaya - Nepal.

<http://www.bl.uk/about/policies/endangeredarch/2006/dixit.html>