Abstract

Over the course of the last two years, the University of Georgia School of Law and Libraries have pursued a variety of grant-funded opportunities to increase digitization efforts of our special collections and archives. This paper aims to present the steps we have taken to increase the efficiency of our grant-funded digitization projects. It draws on 3+ years of experience with successful digitization grant fundraising including 3 small and 1 Large- Scale Initiative grant from the控股集团 Library, Information Preservation Alliance, and a State-Wide seeds initiative grant from the Georgia Historical Records Advisory Council. It relies on lessons learned and best practices derived from our experience in re-capitalizing our digitization efforts to leverage these funds. The ambitious and often unanticipated final products of both the Georgia Historical Records Advisory Council and the Large-Scale Initiative are the inspiration for unlocking the archive and reaching new audiences.

1 Securing Funding

- Identify the resources, digital and funding opportunities that are available for digitization. This may include federal, state, and local government grants.
- Plan your project in advance to ensure you have a comprehensive approach.
- Leverage partnerships with other institutions to expand your reach.
- Explore alternative funding opportunities such as crowdfunding or corporate sponsorships.

2 Grant Cycle Fulfillment

- Successfully navigate the grant application process by understanding the requirements and expectations of the funding agency.
- Ensure that your project aligns with the agency's mission and priorities.
- Develop a detailed plan for project implementation and progress tracking.
- Communicate progress and outcomes effectively to stakeholders.

3 Building Relationships

- Foster relationships with potential funders, partners, and other stakeholders.
- Maintain open and clear communication throughout the grant cycle.
- Recognize and appreciate the contributions of all parties involved in the project.

4 Resource Sharing

- Identify and catalog resources that can be shared among multiple institutions.
- Explore cooperative digitization efforts to maximize resources and reduce costs.
- Develop strategies for resource discovery and access.

5 Strategizing for Users

- Plan for user engagement and accessibility from the outset.
- Design digitization projects that cater to diverse user needs.
- Utilize metadata and access statements to enhance user experience.
- Consider user feedback and iterate on user interface design.

6 Measuring Impact

- Establish metrics and indicators to measure the success of your digitization project.
- Use data to inform future decisions and improve project outcomes.
- Share your findings with the broader community.

7 Publicizing the Project

- Develop a comprehensive communication strategy for your digitization project.
- Utilize digital and print media to reach a broad audience.
- Create opportunities for public engagement through events and workshops.

Questions?

Feel free to contact me!
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Unlocking the Archives:
Leveraging Grants, Digitization, Consortia-OAI
Harvesting, Digital Exhibits & PR Campaigns to SpotLight Special Collections
Rachel Evans, UGA Law Library

Explore Our Grant-Funded Digitized Collections:
- UGA Law Historical Treasures
  - https://digitalcommonslaw.uga.edu/author/hauser-may
- Digital Library of Georgia-Funded Photographs
  - https://digitalcommonslaw.uga.edu/author/hampton-ooch
- More Digital Exibits from UGA Law Library
  - https://digitalcommonslaw.uga.edu/author/bex-bex