## IMLS National Digital Platform for Libraries Overview

The national digital platform is a way of thinking about and approaching the digital capability and capacity of libraries across the US. In this sense, it is the combination of software applications, social and technical infrastructure, and staff expertise that provide library content and services to all users in the US.

As libraries increasingly use digital infrastructure to provide access to digital content and resources, there are more and more opportunities for collaboration around the tools and services that they use to meet their users' needs. It is possible for each library in the country to leverage and benefit from the work of other libraries in shared digital services, systems, and infrastructure.

We need to bridge gaps between disparate pieces of the existing digital infrastructure, for increased efficiencies, cost savings, access, and services. To this end, IMLS is focusing on the national digital platform as an area of priority in the National Leadership Grants to Libraries program and the Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian program. We're also eager to work with other foundations and funders to maximize the impact of our federal investment.

**2016 National Digital Platform Project Funding Opportunities**

The next cycle of 2 page preliminary proposals for the National Leadership Grants for Libraries Program and the Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program will be due in early or mid-February of 2016.

**Select 2015 National Digital Platform Projects**

- **Fostering a New National Library Network through a Community-Based, Connected Repository System (LG-70-15-0006):** The Digital Public Library of America (DPLA), Stanford University, and DuraSpace will foster a greatly expanded network of open-access, content-hosting "hubs" that will enable discovery and interoperability, as well as the reuse of digital resources by people from this country and around the world.
- **Library e-Content Access Project**: **LG-00-15-0263-**15 The New York Public Library (NYPL), in close collaboration with the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA), and 19 partner libraries and library consortia from across the country will expand and provide outreach for the Library Simplified open source eBook platform. Through this work, the partners aim to unify and improve the eBook borrowing and reading experience for library users across the country.
- **Museum Hub for Open Content (LG-70-15-0002):** ARTstor, in collaboration with the El Paso Museum of Art, the Museo de Arte de Ponce in Puerto Rico, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Staten Island Museum, and the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) will create and implement software to enable museums to contribute digital image collections for open public access.
- **Systems Interoperability and Collaborative Development for Web Archiving (LG-71-15-0174-15):** The Internet Archive, working with partner organizations University of North Texas, Rutgers University, and Stanford University Library will undertake a two-year research project to explore techniques that can expand national web archiving capacity in several areas.

- **Expanding Access to Biodiversity Literature (LG-70-15-0138-15):** The New York Botanical Garden, Harvard Ernst Mayr Library of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Missouri Botanical Garden, and Smithsonian Institution Libraries, as part of the Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL), will work to position BHL as an on-ramp for biodiversity content providers interested in contributing to the national digital library infrastructure through the Digital Public Library of America.
- **Email: Process, Appraise, Discover, Deliver – ePADD Phase 2 (LG-70-15-0242-15):** Stanford University Libraries, with partners University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Harvard University, University of California, Irvine, and Metropolitan New York Library Council will significantly improve ePADD, an open-source software package that advances the formation of a National Digital Platform through supporting archival processes around the appraisal, ingest, processing, discovery, and delivery of email archives.
- **Improving Access to Time-Based Media through Crowdsourcing and Machine Learning (LG-71-15-0208-15):** WGBH, in partnership with Pop-Up Archive, will address the challenges faced by many libraries and archives trying to provide better online access to their media collections.
- **Software Preservation Network National Forum (LG-73-15-0133-15):** California Polytechnic State University, in partnership with the University of Texas at Austin, will run a one-year planning and research project that will culminate in a forum on software preservation in support of the missions of cultural heritage organizations. –

**Background, Context and Current Focus for the National Digital Platform**

- The National Digital Platform for Libraries and Museums: Collaborating on tools and services across organizations http://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/2015/06/11/the-national-digital-platform-for-libraries-and-museums/
- IMLS Focus Summary Report: National Digital Platform: http://www.imls.gov/publications/imls-focus-summary-report-national-digital-platform

**Full Funded Project Narratives for National Digital Platform Projects**

- Read the Nine New National Digital Platform Project Narratives: http://www.imls.gov/news-events/upnext-blog/2015/09/read-nine-new-national-digital-platform-project-narratives
- Read the First Four National Digital Platform Project Narratives http://www.imls.gov/news-events/upnext-blog/2015/04/read-first-four-national-digital-platform-grant-proposals

**Most recent Notifications of Funding Opportunities (next notifications to be published shortly)**

- National Leadership Grants for Libraries 2016 Notification of Funding Opportunities (first cycle) https://www.imls.gov/nofo/national-leadership-grants-libraries-fy16-notice-funding-opportunity
- Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program 2016 Notification of Funding Opportunities (first cycle) https://www.imls.gov/nofo/laura-bush-21st-century-librarian-program-fy16-notice-funding-opportunity