

Funding the Digitization of Primary Source Materials



Barbara M. Thiers
The New York Botanical Garden

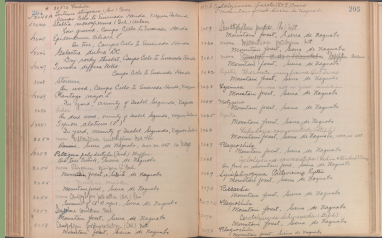
NYBG Source Materials Digitization

Motivations

- Intrinsic interest of the material
- Increase efficiency of the specimen digitization process
- Add value to the collections



NYBG Source Materials Digitization Herbarium Projects



Caribbean Digitization Project

Rupert Barneby Legume Catalog

Flora Borinquena

Title	<i>Tococa guianensis</i> : illustration by J.J. Wurdack.
Creator	J.J. Wurdack
Description	<i>Tococa guianensis</i> : illustration by J.J. Wurdack, based on Maguire 29355 (NY, US). From H. A. Gleason's Archival Notes, Vol. 12.
Specimens	Specimen - 793936, B. Maguire 29355, <i>Tococa guianensis</i> Aubl. - Accepted
Taxonomy	<i>Tococa guianensis</i> Aubl.

Miconieae Planetary Biodiversity Inventory

Amphitoka chapeauxensis, Shearer & Miller
 JLLS 40789 ; Cabel, Escalades de Santa Florida
 Mycological Collections
 On suberect, decaying angiosperm leaves,
 Big Cypress Swamp, Collier County, Florida
 May 24, 1980
 Leg. J. L. Crane & J. D. Scharnke
 Det. Crane & Scharnke

Examined 12.II.1993: some immersed ascospores in the
 leaves, light colored, dark necks, thin-walled
 asci 8-celled, persistent

Amphitoka
 Spores: 33.4-38.2 x 12.2-15.0 μ
 \bar{x} = 35.6 x 13.5, n = 25
 Ascospores: 21-37 x 7-15 μ
 \bar{x} = 32 x 11 μ

Probably throughout the colony, but not as one
 single abundant set, suberect without a
 flange, bottom probably throughout the Ascus

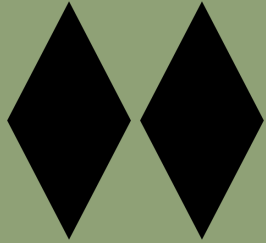
Kohlmeyer Marine Fungi



Macrofungi Collection Consortium

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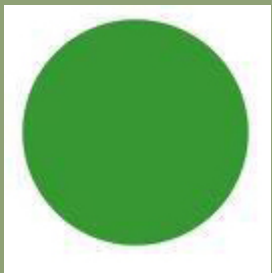
Project Development Strategies



Digitization is stand alone project, justified on intrinsic interest of the source materials alone



Digitization is part of a larger project in which source material enhances value of one or multiple collections



Digitization of source material enhances multiple collections, has aesthetic and content appeal, and can be part of an environmental educational initiative for an under-served community

Funding Digitization of Source Materials

Government Funders- National Science Foundation

- Directorate for Biological Sciences
 - Division of Biological Infrastructure (DBI)
 - Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU), Collections in Support of Biological Research (CSBR)
 - Division of Environmental Biology (DEB)
 - Systematics and Biodiversity Science Cluster
 - Geneology of Life
- Emerging Frontiers
 - Advancing Digitization of Biodiversity Collections
 - Dimensions of Biodiversity



Funding Digitization of Source Materials

Institute of Museum and Library Services

- Museums for America
- National Leadership Grants for Libraries, Museums
- Museum Grants for African American History and Culture
- Native American/Hawaiian Museum Services
- Sparks! Ignition Grants for Library, Museums



Funding Digitization of Source Materials

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Cataloging Hidden Special Collections and Archives

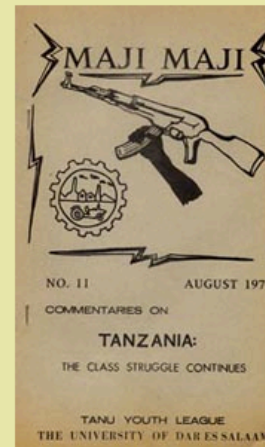
About the Program

The application period for the 2014 cycle is now open. Applications are due by 5:00 pm Eastern time on March 21, 2014. For more information, including application guidelines and the link to the online application system, please visit the [For Applicants](#) page.

An online Q&A session for applicants will be held on Wednesday, March 12, at 2PM Eastern time.

Libraries, archives, and cultural institutions hold millions of items that have never been adequately described. This represents a staggering volume of items of potentially substantive intellectual value that are unknown and inaccessible to scholars. This program seeks to address this problem by awarding grants for supporting innovative, efficient description of large volumes of material of high value to scholars.

The Council on Library and Information Resources administers this national effort with the generous support of [The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation](#). Since the program began in 2008, 109 grants totaling over \$23.5M have been made to a **variety of**



Amistad Research Center

*Increasing Access to
Africana Collections*

This three-year project focuses on two organizational collections devoted to the decolonization of Africa. The American Committee on Africa (1953–2001) and The Africa Fund (1966–2001) worked to educate the American public and American policymakers on the legitimacy of African liberation movements and to

provide assistance to liberation movements and the victims of colonial oppression in Africa.

[More funded projects](#)



Funding Digitization of Source Materials

National Endowment for the Arts

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NEH offers a wide variety of grant programs. We've created this list to help you zero in on the grant program that might suit the activity you have in mind. If you would like some advice about which grant program would be appropriate, an NEH program officer will be happy to talk with you. To start the process, pick the division or office that you'd think would be most appropriate for your project and make an inquiry.

I want to host a program for faculty, scholars, or practitioners to expand their knowledge of a topic.

- Landmarks of American History Workshops for School Teachers
- [Summer Seminars and Institutes](#)
- [Institutes for Advanced Topics in the Digital Humanities](#)
- [Humanities Initiatives at Historically Black Colleges and Universities](#)
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- [Preservation and Access Education and Training](#)

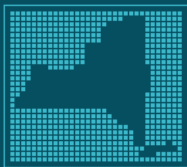
Funding Digitization of Source Materials

State Agencies

New York State

State Agencies

Search all of NY.gov



NYSCA

New York State Council on the Arts

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Funding Digitization of Source Materials

Non-Governmental Sources

Foundations

Corporations

Individuals

Cautions:

- Talk with your institutional development office before contacting
- Develop a short, non-technical proposal and/or demonstration
- Be willing to take the time to develop a relationship



Funding Digitization of Source Materials

Foundations

Mellon Foundation

No longer funding Natural History projects

National/International Biodiversity Foundations ,e.g.

- Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation
- Blue Moon Foundation
- JRS Foundation

Largely focused on conservation/sustainability/capacity building

Local Foundations that support Science, e.g.

- Arcus Foundation (Michigan)
- Bechtel Foundation (SF Bay Area)
- Bellwether Foundation (St. Louis)
- 3M Foundation (New Mexico)
- Lyndhurst Foundation (Chattanooga)

More Information:

Foundation Directory online: fconline.foundationcenter.org



Funding Digitization of Source Materials

Corporations and Philanthropists

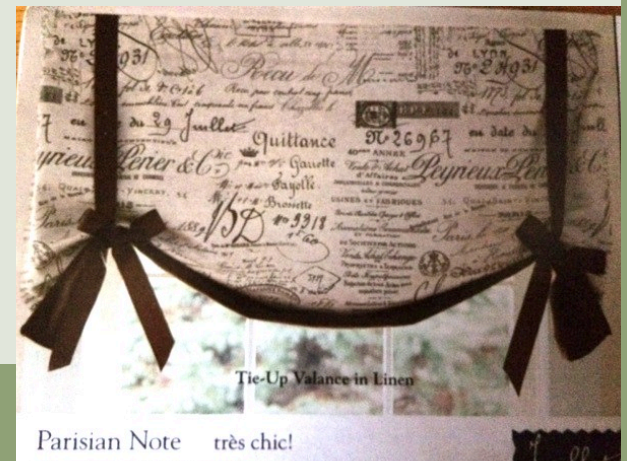
- Often difficult to get a foot in the door
- Relatively easy to get the money, once you get their attention – no proposal, or only a cursory one.
- May want their logo or slogan plastered on everything
- Individual donors require a lot of care and feeding



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Other Ideas

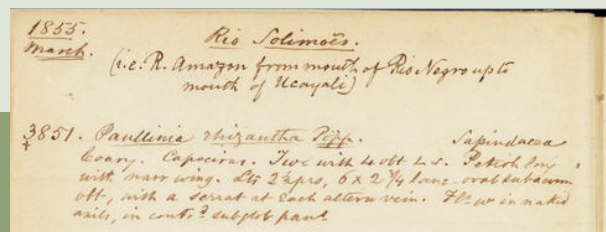
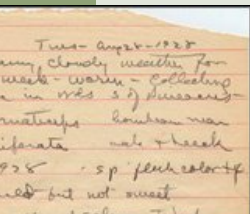
- Alumni
- Descendants of important scientists, curators, collectors
- Licensing of images for products
- Kickstarter, GoFundMe ???



Tie-Up Valance in Linen
Parisian Note très chic!

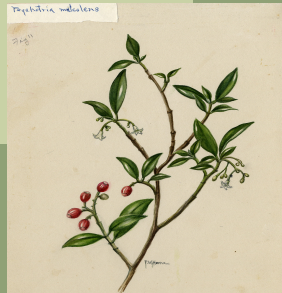
Plan B– If None of These Ideas Work

- Re-direct existing funds, at least enough to do a prototype; Use prototyping results to build or strengthen collaboration
- Piggyback on another project?
- Use volunteers, building supervision into workload of existing employees
 - Crowdsourcing, “blitzes,” corporate volunteer programs



Getting to Yes

- Make a compelling case for the need for digitization
- Design the project to be scalable to maximize the funding possibilities
- Look for linkages that make the project timely
- Be aware of data and procedural standards
- Educational component has to be meaningful and practical



Looking Forward

- Include an explicit educational or empowering component in source materials digitization projects; consider an exhibition component to all project
- Explore collaborative projects, especially ones that help address sustainability issues
- Focus more on born digital source material

