NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress

AGENCY: National Archives and Records Administration.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) announces a meeting of the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress. The committee advises NARA on the full range of programs, policies, and plans for the Center for Legislative Archives in the Office of Records Services.

DATES: The meeting will be held on June 13, 2011 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES: Capitol Visitor Center, Congressional Meeting Room North.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Agenda
(1) Chair’s opening remarks—Secretary of the Senate.
(2) Recognition of Co-chair—Clerk of the House.
(3) Recognition of the Archivist of the United States.
(4) Approval of the minutes of the last meeting.
(5) Discussion of on-going projects and activities.
(6) Annual Report of the Center for Legislative Archives.
(7) Other current issues and new business.

The meeting is open to the public.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Richard H. Hunt, Director; Center for Legislative Archives; (202) 357–5350.

Dated: May 25, 2011.

Mary Ann Hadyka,
Committee Management Officer.

ACTION: Notice, request for comments, collection of information.

SUMMARY: The National Endowment for the Arts and the Humanities (NEA) notices a continuing request for public comment on a proposed new collection of information: the National Heritage Area Public Access Survey (NHAPAS).

The purpose of this survey is to identify public access needs and opportunities for the Nation’s 39 National Heritage Areas (NHAs) and to determine the importance of the specific cultural resources in those areas. The requested information will be used to: identify national needs for and trends in museum, library, and information services throughout the United States; identify best practices; and develop plans to improve museum, library, and information services of the United States and strengthen national, State, local, regional, and international communications and cooperative networks.

II. Current Actions

Over the past decade, libraries, archives, museums, foundations and government agencies, and others have invested millions in the digitization of historical and rare content for research, education, cultural heritage. Grants have facilitated major digitization efforts, developed significant new collections, and paved the way for exciting new forms of research and teaching, possible only in an online environment. As budgets tighten and the real costs of ongoing support for digital projects become clear, however, libraries, archives, and museums are discovering...
that the work associated with digitization projects rarely concludes when the last scanned file is posted to a public site. The maintenance of digital projects requires an ongoing investment of both financial and human resources; not only must servers be supported and user queries answered, but rapid advances in technology are changing user expectations about how they want to discover, interact with, and share digital content. These changes are creating complicated new challenges for libraries, archives, and other institutions that wish to digitize and make available their local special and archival collections.

The project will consist of two parts: first, a survey asking representatives from a range of institutions to document existing practices and attitudes toward sustaining digitized special collections, and second, a series of case studies on innovative models for managing and sustaining digitized special collections (to be released in Spring 2012). This study will promote the spread of knowledge about library and museum experiments and initiatives to support digital projects, enabling both the leaders of current and future digital projects to develop more robust sustainability plans and also the funders and institutional administrators who support these projects to understand the factors and variables that help point towards success. This survey will attempt to gather data from a broad and representative range of cultural heritage organizations across the United States.

This survey is intended for libraries, archives, museums, and other cultural heritage organizations that have digitized some portion of their special collections to have their special collections digitized by a third party. Please do not hesitate to contact the authors of the survey (see contact information below) if you are unsure whether the survey applies to your organization.

The survey is being distributed to leaders of libraries or other institutions that are: Recipients of IMLS funds for digitization projects from 1997 to the present, (through National Leadership Grants or via other routes such as LSTA funding) or Members of the Association of Research Libraries.


Title: Sustaining Digitized Special Collections and Archives Survey.

OMB Number: To be determined.

Agency Number: 3137.

Frequency: One-time survey.

Affected Public: Libraries, archives, museums, and other cultural heritage organizations.

Number of Respondents: To be determined.

Estimated Time per Respondent: To be determined.

Total Annualized Capital/Startup Costs: To be determined.

Total Costs: To be determined.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Chuck Thomas, Institute of Museum and Library Services, 1800 M Street NW, 9th Floor, Washington, DC 20036.

Telephone: 202–653–4663. E-mail: cthomas@imls.gov or by or by teletype (TTY/TDD) for persons with hearing difficulty at 202–653–4614.

Dated: May 25, 2011.

Kim Miller,

Management Analyst.

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THE NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

Submission for OMB Review, Comment Request, Proposed Collection: IMLS Digital Collections and Content: An Assessment of Opening History

AGENCY: Institute of Museum and Library Services, The National Foundation for the Arts and the Humanities.

ACTION: Submission for OMB review, comment request.

SUMMARY: The Institute of Museum and Library Services announces that the following information collection has been submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). This program helps to ensure that requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed.

A copy of the proposed information collection request, with applicable supporting documentation, may be obtained by contacting the individual listed below in the ADDRESSES section of this notice.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted to the office listed in the ADDRESSES section below on or before June 27, 2011.

OMB is particularly interested in comments that help the agency to:

• Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

• Evaluate the accuracy of the agency’s estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

• Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

• Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques, or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submissions of responses.

ADDRESSES: Chuck Thomas, Senior Program Officer, Institute of Museum and Library Services, 1800 M Street, NW., 9th Floor, Washington, DC 20036. Telephone: 202–653–4663. E-mail: cthomas@imls.gov or by teletype (TTY/TDD) for persons with hearing difficulty at 202–653–4614.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) is an independent Federal grant-making agency and is the primary source of federal support for the Nation’s 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. IMLS provides a variety of grant programs to assist the Nation’s museums and libraries in improving their operations and enhancing their services to the public. IMLS conducts policy research, analysis, and data collection to extend and improve the Nation’s museum, library, and information services. The policy research, analysis, and data collection is used to: Identify national needs for and trends in museum, library, and information services; measure and report on the impact and effectiveness of museum, library, and information services throughout the United States; identify best practices; and develop plans to improve museum, library, and information services of the United States and strengthen national, State, local, regional, and international communications and cooperative networks. (20 U.S.C. Chapter 72, 20 U.S.C. 9108).

Abstract: This national survey of reference service providers in public and academic libraries is intended to help the IMLS Digital Collections and Content (DCC) project evaluate the Opening History resource. Opening History is a publicly available registry and repository of digital cultural heritage collections, expanded from a strong base of collections digitized through IMLS support. Approximately