Narrative: CLIR Climate Resiliency Action Workshop Program

Project justification

The 21st century has experienced a dramatic increase in extreme weather events. The Office for Coastal Management estimates the cost for hurricane damage alone from 1980 to 2021 to be over \$2.1 trillion. Hurricane Ian, one of at least 15 separate billion dollar incidents in 2022 (Climate.gov graph plotting billion-dollar disaster events from 1980 to 2022), cost an estimated \$113 billion in damages. Alongside these large weather events, the country has gone through years-long droughts, floods, and fires. The intensity and severity of the weather puts libraries and museums, our collective history, and community spaces at risk. Libraries, museums, and cultural centers need better preparation, awareness, and community to face this new reality.

To address this, CLIR is seeking two years of funding from the National Leadership Grant to launch a program of free online climate resiliency workshops, informal climate circles, and conference meetings that will identify the key areas of action that librarians, archivists, and other cultural workers can take. Climate resiliency could address:

- plans for preserving, protecting, and maintaining collections during intense heat, extreme cold, flooding, earthquakes, tornadoes, or hurricanes;
- the social and economic impacts, such as the estimated financial costs for hurricanes and other extreme weather events; and
- action planning to prepare the institution's community for climate catastrophes, improving the community's resiliency through awareness and action.

The most successful approach for the workshops is to invite in the communities that have been most affected by climate events, to learn from them, and develop actionable plans for the future.

From the <u>Union of Concerned Scientists</u>, climate resiliency means:

"successfully coping with and managing the impacts of climate change while preventing those impacts from growing worse."

Without climate resiliency knowledge and action, libraries, museums, and cultural centers will continue to experience devastating losses of space, cultural history, collections, and community. In 2017, IMLS recognized the financial constraints impacted institutions were facing with the Emergency Conservation Assessment Support fund, but as these extreme weather events become more frequent, institutions must shift from a reactive to a proactive approach to reduce loss as efficiently as possible.



The beneficiaries of the series are galleries, libraries, archives, and museums (GLAM) and their communities, especially those already within areas experiencing higher chances of extreme weather events. <u>Climate.gov</u> offers live and open data that identifies climate risks with mapping tools. An example of these areas can be viewed with <u>an active weather risk Storymap</u> overlaying Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) data with libraries, archives, and museum data from the Washington D.C. area.

Another example from <u>FEMA's National Risk Index map</u> provides layers for risk index, expected annual loss, social vulnerability, and community resilience by county. For instance, Houston, Tex., is in Harris County and boasts over <u>150 public museum or cultural centers</u>. According to FEMA, Harris County has, out of 100, a high risk factor of 80.62, a "very high" annual loss expectancy score of 93.64, a "relatively moderate" social vulnerability score of 38.90, and a "relatively low" community resilience score of 52.23, when compared with other U.S. counties. In 2021, The Weather Channel suggested that Houston may be named "<u>America's Rainfall Flooding Capital</u>" with increasing annual flooding events. With <u>very high risk</u> within that community, it's imperative that libraries, museums, and cultural centers increase their own climate resiliency.

Houston illustrates the risk to GLAM institutions when Hurricane Harvey struck In 2017. Over weeks, buildings took on feet of water and rain damage from roof leaking and broken windows. Kendall Neighborhood Library was reopened after five years, renovated with FEMA funding and with the addition of a flood wall.

While high risk areas may benefit more than low risk zones, all of the nation's cultural centers would benefit from this program as extreme weather becomes more frequent and less predictable. For this reason, the target audience and main beneficiaries for the proposal are all U.S. libraries, museums, and cultural centers.

This climate crisis is our lifetime's biggest collective action problem, and everyone has a role to play in responding to it. Many librarians are acutely aware of the urgent need to act but struggle to determine their course. Resources exist with information on libraries and climate resiliency, but most favor identifying problems over actionable approaches. Moreover, most existing resources are self-directed, such as readings and syllabi, and do not offer opportunities to connect with a community.

The program proposed by CLIR will focus on the voices and communities that have come from underserved areas: the libraries, museums, and cultural centers that were already underfunded and in critical weather or disaster areas. We have the most knowledge to gain from those with direct experience who might offer practical and impactful solutions and action ideas.



CLIR has experience with online education, having organized a 6-part online certification program on collections management and hosted regular online meetings and webinars for its fellows, sponsors, and participants in the Leading Change Institute. CLIR has also contributed to climate education in libraries through its Material Memory podcast, which devoted its 2020-2021 season to Climate Change and Cultural Memory. In 2023, CLIR will publish a report called "A Green New Deal for Archives" by Eira Tansey. CLIR's Digital Library Federation (DLF) program supports a grassroots working group of library professionals dedicated to climate justice, which will help organize and contribute expertise to the series.

Currently, no known free librarian- and archivist-oriented certification opportunities exist for this national crisis. The <u>Sustainable Libraries Initiative</u>, available for public, academic, and school libraries, does provide a certification process for libraries (not individuals nor archives), for a cost and annual membership fee. The proposed program, as well as the Sustainable Libraries Initiative, could complement each other for institutional knowledge and action building. In addition, organizations such as the <u>Communities Responding to Extreme Weather (CREW)</u> and the <u>DLF's Climate Justice group</u> could provide ongoing networking and learning opportunities.

This project addresses three objectives of the IMLS National Leadership Grants for Libraries under Goal 2: "Build the capacity of libraries and archives to lead and contribute to efforts that improve community well-being and strengthen civic engagement."

Objective	Alignment with project								
2.1: Develop or enhance replicable library programming, models, and tools that engage communities and individuals of diverse cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds.	The series will create an open resource library with tools that can be replicated and adapted to different contexts. The workshops focus on both the direct and indirect effects of the climate crisis, and will consider economic, health, and social justice impacts, in addition to environmental ones.								
2.2: Develop or enhance collaborations between libraries and stakeholders, and leverage opportunities to address community needs.	The series will emphasize collective action and forming strategic partnerships with key stakeholders affected by and working on the climate crisis.								
2.3 Establish or refine approaches that equip libraries and archives to contribute to the well being of communities	The central question guiding the curriculum will be how best to serve a library's core communities in the face of the climate crisis.								



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The intent is to build knowledge and community around climate resiliency action for GLAM institutions. In CREW's published report <u>Extreme Weather and Social</u> Connectedness, they write:

approaches and put them into practice.

"[We] believe that the most effective way to build climate resilience is to build social resilience."

Program structure

The workshop series includes six 90-minute online modules, each focused on a unique topic pertaining to climate resiliency action in libraries, with "climate circles" held in-between each workshop and at least three additional opportunities to connect at existing conferences.

The digital and distributed format was selected because it minimizes travel emissions and makes the program more equitable and accessible, while still providing opportunities to build collaborative partnerships. The series is designed with the understanding that participants have different life circumstances and availability.

Participation in climate circles and in-person meet-ups is optional.

Workshop series

The free, live workshop series will run over the course of twelve months for a total of six, 90-minute, virtual workshops in total. The first 45 minutes of each online workshop will either be a pre-recorded or live expert presentation, followed by a 45-minute live, moderated discussion session with the presenters that includes interactive components — enabling participants to apply what they have learned.

Participants can attend any sessions that interest them or participate in all of them. They can watch the recordings when they are live streamed, or on their own schedule.

Participants interested in receiving professional development credit for the workshop program will have the opportunity to receive a climate resiliency action in libraries certificate for completion of all six modules, potentially including an assessment component to verify core skills were developed. The certification may be provided to participants after the live workshop program ends. All sessions will be recorded and



made freely available, along with a digital resource library; the digital resource library after the live workshops may also include certification.

Possible topics for the workshops include, but are not limited to, emergency planning, managing collections in a climate crisis, serving communities most affected by the crisis, adapting institutional budgets and policies for resilience in the face of crisis, developing digital preservation policies to include sustainability measures, reducing the environmental impact of libraries, supporting existing climate actions and movements, and helping communities prepare for the direct and indirect effects of extreme climate events. The final webinar topics will be informed by a community survey prior to selection by the Curriculum Committee.

<u>Climate.gov's Implementing the Steps to Resilience: A Practitioner's Guide</u> may also be useful to determine intersections of broad climate resiliency recommendations and how they could specifically apply to GLAM-relevant topics.

Digital inclusion and accessibility will be prioritized in all project-related activities for maximum audience reach.

Workshop project roles

- Program Coordinator: manage the workshop program; create virtual meetings or webinars developed by the Curriculum Committee and the topical webinars; coordinate outreach and promotions; host the virtual sessions.
- Curriculum Committee: select topics, speakers, and dates and times for each session; moderate for the virtual sessions; develop supplemental resources for the website on each topic.
- DLF Climate Justice group: advise CLIR on sustainable hosting for the recordings for perpetual access afterwards; recommend supplemental resources for the website on each topic.
- Program Director: serve as the primary grant contact; assess progress on grant deliverables; prepare final project report for IMLS.

Climate Circles

Participants taking the workshop series live will have additional opportunities to connect. In between workshop sessions, the DLF Climate Justice group will offer participants opportunities to gather, process, make plans for action, and stay accountable to taking action by hosting digital Climate Circles, inspired by the All We Can Save model.

In alignment with the workshop series, the Circles are free and open to everyone in the target audience, with at least six circle sessions offered. Each Climate Circle session will be 75 to 90 minutes and hosted virtually.

Climate Circle roles

- Curriculum Committee: share topic-related content.
- Program Coordinator: create and manage the meetings, act as Host for the virtual sessions.
- DLF Climate Justice group: provide one or two facilitators for each of the Climate Circle sessions, coordinate dates and times for those sessions based on the workshop schedule.

In-person networking

To further strengthen the community, the series will host three in-person meet-ups at library conferences in different regions of the United States, including at CLIR's DLF Forum where participants can further their collective efforts through the DLF Climate Justice working group.

In-person meet-ups will be primarily unstructured networking opportunities. Members of the Curriculum Committee, the Program Coordinator, or the DLF Climate Justice group can volunteer to coordinate the networking opportunities within the parameters of the conferences selected. Along with the <u>DLF Forum</u> in November, some conferences of interest are:

- ACRL (Association of College and Research Libraries) conference in March
- MuseumNext Green Museums Summit in March
- ASIS&T (Association for Information Science and Technology) conference in April
- AAM (American Alliance of Museums) annual meeting in May
- ALA (American Library Association) conference in June
- SAA (Society of American Archivists) annual meeting in July
- SLA (Special Libraries Association) annual conference in August

In-person meeting roles

- Curriculum Committee: coordinate with the DLF Climate Justice group to identify
 two additional conferences that members are attending; communicate with the
 conference coordinators to establish a networking event; and attend the
 networking event;
- Program Coordinator: provide marketing materials and talking points for the program;
- DLF Climate Justice group: coordinate with the Curriculum Committee to identify two additional conferences members are attending; communicate with the conference coordinators to establish a networking event; and attend the networking event.

Project Personnel

Program Director

The Program Director is the primary grant contact and helps to maintain that the program is moving forward as intended and in alignment with the grant. The Director also serves as a connection between the grant, CLIR, and DLF's Climate Justice working group.

The Program Director will produce a report in collaboration with the Program Coordinator for IMLS at the end of the program that analyzes how funds were spent and whether goals were met. This will be developed in coordination with the Curriculum Committee's program assessment work.

Following the DLF's Assessment Interest Group (AIG) model, the Program Director is a DLF volunteer member.

Program Coordinator

CLIR will hire a 0.5 FTE coordinator to provide administrative support for the program. The responsibilities include:

- Develop the call for interest to recruit for the Curriculum Committee;
- Schedule and host Curriculum Committee meetings;
- Develop and issue a survey of librarians and archivists to gauge interest in potential topics, using the Curriculum Committee's criteria and information needs;
- Act as Host (the person who creates and manages the technical component of a virtual event) for the webinar sessions and Climate Circles;
- Provide technical support for session Moderators;
- Develop, in conjunction with the Curriculum Committee, assessments to gauge success for each session and the series as a whole:
- Compile and publish, with CLIR staff support, the digital resource library website with content from the Curriculum Committee and DLF Climate Justice group;
- Develop, with CLIR staff support, marketing materials and talking points for in-person networking;
- Oversee the program assessments and report publication, with CLIR staff support; and
- Work with other CLIR staff to develop the workshop certificate and process.

Selection

CLIR will manage the hiring process for the Program Coordinator based on the requirements outlined above.



Time commitment

Estimated time commitment for this project is 50% time for two years. Additional CLIR staff will provide support for development of graphics, marketing materials, and additional technical support.

Curriculum Committee

The Curriculum Committee's role is to develop the workshop series. The Committee's responsibilities include:

- Identify topic selection criteria and share with the Program Coordinator to develop a survey for librarians and archivists;
- Analyze the librarian and archivist survey results to select the workshop topics;
- Nominate two to four experts for each selected topic to lead each session;
- Develop questions for the pre- and post-assessment surveys for each workshop session as well as the overall program;
- Develop supporting resource lists for each topic to share on the website for the live series and afterwards with the recording; collaborate with the DLF Climate Justice group to develop supplemental materials; and
- Perform analysis of the program's overall success and findings in collaboration with the Program Coordinator.

Committee selection

The curriculum committee is composed of five individuals from a wide range of professional and personal backgrounds who will select topics and speakers.

To establish the Curriculum Committee, the DLF Climate Justice committee will develop required selection criteria and, with support from the Program Coordinator, put out a call for interest within DLF and to organizations that have experienced extreme weather events over the past few decades or are in high-risk zones and currently prepared or preparing for catastrophic weather events.

All speakers and members of the Curriculum Committee will be offered equitable compensation for their time and expertise.

Time commitment

Estimated time commitment for this project is 40 hours per person over the program period:

- Curriculum topic and speaker selection: 20 hours
- Curriculum supplemental content development: 10 hours
- Program assessment work: 3 hours

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- Moderator role during workshop sessions: 2 hours (1 person moderating per session)
- Program assessment analysis: 5 hours

DLF Climate Justice working group

The DLF Climate Justice working group is newly formed around the work needed to prepare digital collections for climate action. Their primary involvement is to help develop selection criteria for the Curriculum Committee, identify or provide one or two facilitators for each Climate Circle event, and coordinate with the Curriculum Committee to bring in-person networking opportunities to selected conferences.

Program assessment and publications

Following the workshop series, the Curriculum Committee will publish a report with CLIR support that synthesizes the workshops' outcomes. The report will utilize data collected from the workshop assessments.

The report will be made available on the program's website as well as CLIR's report repository. The findings will be disseminated using CLIR's publication strategy.

In addition to the program's report, the published website content will remain active for people to access the content and certification until the content is deemed outdated.

Diversity plan

Centering the voices from the communities most affected by the climate crisis is critical. In the United States, this includes communities predominantly inhabited by BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) groups, particularly Black, Latine, and Indigenous populations.

Diversity action and awareness will be required criteria when hiring the Program Coordinator and selecting representatives for the Curriculum Committee. It will be emphasized to the committee as they consider potential speakers.

Since the webinar sessions will include two to four speakers to offer a variety of perspectives, the workshops can help shift understanding about who a "climate expert" is. The DLF Climate Justice group and CLIR understand that community experts with a lived experience of climate crises are best positioned to envision effective ways to plan for it.

A potential partner in identifying library-oriented community experts is <u>Communities</u> <u>Responding to Extreme Weather</u> (CREW).

Project results

This program aims to help communities nationwide to build action plans for climate resiliency through multiple methods of learning and interacting to address a global issue impacting everyone. The program more broadly supports these efforts through CLIR hosting the content for the foreseeable future, and the material being perpetually archived within an institutional repository beyond that point. CLIR's DLF Climate Justice working group will synthesize final results into a publication and/or digital toolkit that can provide a useful resource for attendees and the broader library and museum community. The federal investment in establishing this learning pathway supports the sustainability of the nation's libraries and cultural institutions through climate resiliency strategies developed from the program's opportunities.

The program advances knowledge shared through lived experiences of the speakers to increase understanding for how cultural institutions and libraries can increase climate resiliency for their collections and communities. The community built around the project will be bolstered through continued engagement around these issues through CLIR's DLF Climate Justice working group.

Deliverables include:

- six recorded online workshops;
- six informal Climate Circles (held between workshops);
- three opportunities to meet in person in different parts of the United States;
- an accessible online resource bank available on CLIR's website and perpetually archived using Digital Library Federation's (DLF) National Digital Stewardship Alliance (NDSA) standards for a minimum of 20 years, or until the content is deemed outdated; and
- a publication and/or digital tool kit synthesizing the workshops' outcomes.

Content and materials will be freely available and designed for adaptability for use by other institutions and communities nationally. To ensure library and archival colleagues are confident in adapting the content, the website supplemental materials and recordings will be published online with the CC BY-NC Attribution-NonCommercial 2.0 Generic Creative Commons license.

The nation's cultural heritage and shared community memory needs to be preserved and protected. The workshop program aims to support the advancement of knowledge, community, and tools with the support of national funds to keep our history safe.

Schedule of Completion

PROJECT TITLE CLIR Climate Resiliency Action in Libraries Digital Workshops

PROJECT MANAGER CLIR and DLF Climate Justice Working Group

PHASE		DETAILS																						
			Aug :	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug S	ер Ос	t No	v Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun Jul
1 Recruitment	CLIR Hires Program Coordinator																							
	Curriculum Committee Established																							
2 Workshop Series		Recruitment of Speakers																						
		Establishment of Web Platform																						
	Scheduling and Content Planning																							
		Advertising and Registration																						
	Hosting of Webinars																							
3 Climate Circles	Arranging and Scheduling																							
	Hosting of Circles																							
4 In-person Networking		Selection of Conferences and Hosts																						
	In-person Networking	Arrangement of Travel																						
	Hosting of Events															То	Allign v	vith K	еу Со	nfere	nces			
5 Assessment & Publication		Develop Assessment Surveys																						
	Assessment & Publication	Conduct Assessment																						
		Analyze and Prepare White Paper																						

Digital Products Plan

Type

The CLIR Climate Resiliency Action in Libraries Digital Workshops will deliver the following digital products: six recorded online workshops, supporting materials for six informal climate circles (held between workshops), and supporting materials for three opportunities to meet in person in different parts of the US, and a publication.

Workshops will be recorded though the selected online meeting platform and saved in an MP4 format. Videos will have subtitles embedded, and machine-readable transcripts will also be made available to facilitate discoverability and access. Supporting documents for the sessions, climate circles, and in person events, including slides, will be saved in PDF for the widest range of readability, regardless of original file type. Images from the events will be saved in TIFF format for preservation, and made available online in JPEG format. All images will be accompanied by alt-text for accessibility. Possible files archived as part of the events may include, but are not limited to, programs, advertisement, posters, presentation slides, presentation audio, video recording, meeting notes, curricular planning materials, and program documentation.

Items preserved by the University of South Florida Libraries will be accompanied by Dublin Core metadata providing proper attribution to all creators, CLIR, and the DLF Climate Justice Working Group.

Availability

The workshop recordings will be made available immediately through CLIR's website and YouTube account. Supporting documents relevant to the viewing of the workshops will also be made available through CLIR's website.

To ensure content remains available in the long term, the workshops and supporting materials will be archived and preserved through the open access Digital Commons at the University of South Florida Libraries. The repository is backed up in multiple places, including an Amazon Web Services account to prevent loss of the data. The repository is search engine optimized and will be widely discoverable even after the content is no longer available through CLIR's website.

Data Management Plan

1 - Identify the type(s) of data you plan to collect or generate, and the purpose or intended use(s) to which you expect them to be put. Describe the method(s) you will use, the proposed scope and scale, and the approximate dates or intervals at which you will collect or generate data.

Over the course of the year, the CLIR Climate Resiliency Action in Libraries Digital Workshops series will conduct six virtual workshops that will be recorded through an online meeting platform. These recordings will be collected between 2023 and 2024. The recordings will be saved in an MP4 format and made accessible through CLIR-hosted websites for immediate access, then archived at the University of South Florida Libraries through their Digital Commons platform and preserved though Amazon Web Services to meet NDSA standards. Each recording will be accompanied by a transcript of the event in an accessible format for the archived version. In addition to the recordings, born digital records related to the series will also be collected for the archive and preservation on Digital Commons at University of South Florida and preserved on AWS, including ephemera and advertising, reading lists, circulated notes, survey results, and other materials deemed relevant to the series.

2 - Does the proposed data collection or research activity require approval by any internal review panel or institutional review board (IRB)? If so, has the proposed research activity been approved? If not, what is your plan for securing approval?

NA

3 - Will you collect any sensitive information? This may include personally identifiable information (PII), confidential information (e.g., trade secrets), or proprietary information. If so, detail the specific steps you will take to protect the information while you prepare it for public release (e.g., anonymizing individual identifiers, data aggregation). If the data will not be released publicly, explain why the data cannot be shared due to the protection of privacy, confidentiality, security, intellectual property, and other rights or requirements.

Presenters and attendees will be notified in advance that the meetings are recorded and will be published online. Post-workshop surveys will not collect any personally identifiable information and the data will be aggregated to protect the privacy of those who take the survey.

4 - What technical (hardware and/or software) requirements or dependencies would be necessary for understanding retrieving, displaying, processing, or otherwise reusing the data?

The data will be hosted openly online, requiring access to the Internet. Online meetings will require the downloading of Zoom software.

5 - What documentation (e.g., consent agreements, data documentation, codebooks, metadata, and analytical and procedural information) will you capture or create along with the data? Where will the documentation be stored and in what format(s)? How will you permanently associate and manage the documentation with the data it describes to enable future reuse?

Presenters will be asked to complete a rights release acknowledging that the videos will have a <u>CC BY-NC license</u> to allow for the hosting of the workshops on CLIR's website and Digital Commons at the University of South Florida. The rights releases will be filed by both CLIR and the University of South Florida, and archived at the University of South Florida. The license statement will be noted in the record metadata.

6 - What is your plan for managing, disseminating, and preserving data after the completion of the award-funded project?

A long term (indefinite) data preservation plan will be used to store the following beyond the life of the project using the USF institutional repository <u>Digital Commons @ USF.</u>
Digital Commons @ USF is hosted with the bepress Digital Commons platform. "Digital Commons is a high availability platform that employs a modern, cloud-based architecture to provide fast and reliable access for content up-load and delivery worldwide. Our service offers unlimited storage, built-in redundancy and backups, and the option to receive archives via Amazon S3" (<u>Safeguarding Your Content with Digital Commons, bepress</u>). Additionally, the USF Library participates in the bepress Archive which provides 24/7 access to an Amazon S3 account containing a backup of the repository. "This service also in-cludes automatic checksums and data integrity checks. Clients have complete control over the contents and administration" (<u>Safeguarding Your Content with Digital Commons, bepress</u>).

7 - Identify where you will deposit the data:

Data will be depositing in the Digital Commons @ USF repository (https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/).

8 - When and how frequently will you review this data management plan? How will the implementation be monitored?

The data hosted by CLIR will be monitored by their project management for a time determined by the organization. The data archived and preserved at the University of South Florida will be reviewed annually as part of the regular maintenance of Digital Commons at the University of South Florida, under the direction of the Curator for Digital Collections.

Access

All items created as a result of the grant will be placed under a CC BY-NC
Commons License to ensure that the materials are widely shareable, but that they cannot be exploited for commercial gain. This Creative Commons License will also require attribution to maintain links within the community and help to encourage engagement with the project. Libraries, archives, and museums will be able to remix and adapt content for their own institutional needs.

Sustainability

By utilizing both a web presence and archiving the materials through an institutional repository, the program will have a lasting presence. The University of South Florida Libraries collects in environmentally-focused archives and funds the hosting of the repository platform. The collections were migrated to their current platform in 2021, and any future migrations would include the CLIR Climate Resiliency Action in Libraries Digital Workshops. The collections will be preserved both through the hosting service from bepress and externally through Amazon Web Services. The Dublin Core metadata describing the items will be checked on an annual basis and archived for ease of migration. The collection will also be given a formally registered DOI.



Organizational Profile

The Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) is an independent, nonprofit organization whose mission is to forge strategies to enhance research, teaching, and learning environments in collaboration with libraries, cultural institutions, and communities of higher learning. Its vision is to transform the information landscape to support the advancement of knowledge.¹

CLIR promotes forward-looking collaborative solutions that transcend disciplinary, institutional, professional, and geographic boundaries in support of the public good. In pursuing its mission, CLIR is committed to building trust, retaining independence, fostering collaboration, cultivating effective leadership, and capitalizing on strategic opportunities.

CLIR has formed collaborative partnerships with libraries, cultural institutions, and associations of higher learning to:

- catalog, digitize, preserve, and "un-hide" hundreds of valuable rare and special collections across the United States and Canada that otherwise would remain out of sight and inaccessible (our *Hidden Collections* and *Recordings at Risk* regranting programs),
- federate and make freely accessible data about collections related to the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, regardless of where in the world they are held (the *Digital Library of the Middle East*, created in partnership with Stanford Libraries and numerous partners in the MENA region),
- train an emerging profession in service to advanced research (postdoctoral fellows funded by the Sloan Foundation, the Mellon Foundation, and numerous universities and cultural heritage organizations), and
- mentor a growing cohort of future leaders (through the Leading Change Institute, jointly hosted by CLIR and EDUCAUSE).

Base of Support. CLIR receives program and project funding from private foundations, organizations, and several federal agencies, including IMLS. Vital to CLIR's funding base and credibility are the annual fees that CLIR collects from its sponsors who represent more than 200 institutions, ranging from the nation's largest research libraries to small liberal arts college libraries and cultural heritage institutions.

Brief History. CLIR was created in 1997 through the merger of the Council on Library Resources (formed in 1956) and the Commission on Preservation and Access (formed in 1986). Building on the experience and strengths of its predecessors, CLIR aimed to serve as a catalytic, convening organization that engages the best minds to address important issues of national and international concern. From the start, CLIR has brought together disparate organizations and individuals to resolve deep-seated problems facing the library and cultural heritage communities. More on CLIR's history is available at https://www.clir.org/about/history.

¹ "About Us," <u>www.clir.org/about</u>. Mission, vision, and values statements approved by CLIR Board in May 2011. Accessed August 13, 2013.