



The UCLA Library [Modern Endangered Archives Program](#) (MEAP) offers grants to support the documentation and digitization of at-risk global cultural heritage collections. Funded by Arcadia, MEAP has been awarding grants since 2019 to preserve and create access to endangered archival materials from the 20th and 21st Centuries, including print, photographic, film, video, audio, ephemeral, and born-digital objects.

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS (2026-27)

MEAP invites applications for its ninth cohort of projects designed to preserve, document, and digitize collections at risk from environmental conditions, political uncertainty, inherently unsustainable media, inappropriate storage, or communal and social change. All materials created with MEAP funding will be published on the open access [UCLA Library Digital Collections repository](#).

All applications must be submitted in English through our online application system available at [meap.smapply.io](#). The online application portal will open on Monday, September 14th and Preliminary Applications are due on Monday, November 16, 2026.

Three Awards Available

PLANNING GRANTS offer up to \$20,000 for up to one year of work to evaluate and prepare materials for digitization. Projects should focus on **organizing and documenting existing archival materials** through assessment, cataloging, survey, or inventory creation. Projects should also **investigate and secure rights** for future digitization.

PROJECT GRANTS offer up to \$70,000 for up to two years of work to digitize and create robust, object-level metadata for cultural heritage materials. Projects should focus on **digitization and metadata creation** for an existing archival or born-digital collection.

REGIONAL GRANTS offer up to \$100,000 for up to two years of work to create digital collections that include **cultural heritage materials from three or more institutions, families, or archival repositories** but relate to **one theme, community, or historical event**. Projects should focus on digitization and metadata creation that enables findability for materials that are not physically held in one location. (*Only past MEAP grantees are eligible to apply.)

Grant funds can be used for staff salaries, equipment, training, travel, and community engagement to support the documentation and digitization of endangered collections. Funds cannot be used for the creation of new materials, including oral histories, documentaries, exhibitions or other recordings.

New AV Grant Opportunity Opening Spring 2027

MEAP will offer new AV Grants starting 2027 for projects focused on audio visual archives. The AV Grants will have a dedicated application, review process, and expert panel. AV Grants provide funding up to \$100,000 to address the complex challenges of documenting and digitizing audio visual materials.

AV Grants provide a unique opportunity for audio visual archives to digitize and make accessible at-risk audio or moving image materials. Over the last eight years, MEAP has supported grantees through the material challenges of working with magnetic media, difficulties procuring hardware, cleaning and assessing degrading tape, identifying external vendors, and documenting unknown tapes and reels. MEAP AV Grants are meant to support these challenges more directly with expanded funding, expert staff support, and a new review panel. Resulting inventories, reports, and digital collections will be published on the open access [UCLA Library Digital Collections repository](#).

The new AV Grant application is still in development. MEAP aims to open Applications for AV Grants in April 2027 with funding selections determined in September 2027. **As a result of this new funding opportunity, proposed projects primarily focused on AV collections will not be considered for the 9th round of MEAP funding and will be held until the new MEAP AV Grant application is open.**

APPLICATION CYCLE 2026 -27

MEAP has a two-round application process. All applicants must submit a Preliminary Application through our online application system available at meap.smapply.io. Eligible applicants will be invited to submit a Detailed Application. All applications must be submitted in English.

- Applications open **September 14, 2026**
- Preliminary Applications due **November 16, 2026**
- Preliminary Application decisions communicated **December 2026**
- Detailed Applications (for invited applicants) due **February 12, 2027**

- MEAP AV Grants Application opens (likely) **April 2027**
- MEAP Planning, Project, and Regional Grant Awards announced **Summer 2027**
- MEAP AV Grant Awards announced **Fall 2027**

Application Details

The UCLA Library Modern Endangered Archives Program supports the preservation and discovery of at-risk archival collections that invite a more expansive understanding of the world we live in. We are committed to supporting projects that reflect community voices, cultural expression, and historical experiences that have been left out of national narratives and archives.

ELIGIBILITY

MEAP supports projects to organize, collect, reformat, and describe archival materials, existing digital assets, or born-digital materials. Materials must fit the criteria outlined below.

ENDANGERMENT: Archival content must be imminently at-risk due to environmental conditions, political uncertainty, inherently unsustainable media, inappropriate storage, and/or communal or social change.

AGE OF MATERIAL: From the early 20th century to the present, preferably with a majority of the material dating from the 1940s or later.

CONTENT: Materials should document aspects of history, society, culture, and politics, preferably with an emphasis on social justice, human rights, and under-documented communities.

GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS: Collections must be held outside the United States, Canada, the UK, and European Union countries. We encourage applications from Africa, the Caribbean, Central America, Latin America, the Middle East, Central Asia, South and Southeast Asia, and Oceania.

FORMAT: We welcome materials in a variety of formats, including print, photographs, ephemera, and born-digital files.

* **NEW:** All projects focused primarily on audio, film, or video collections should apply for MEAP AV Grants and will not be considered in this application round.

OPEN ACCESS REQUIREMENT

MEAP is an Open Access program. All content created with grant funding must be shared openly online at meap.library.ucla.edu. This includes surveys or inventories for Planning Grants and digital files for Project and Regional Grants.

Project teams are responsible for securing necessary permissions for Open Access publication.

- Project and Regional Grant applicants must provide evidence of permission for publication at the Detailed Application phase.
- Planning Grant projects may build in time to explore rights-related questions for future digitization.

More Information

The 2026-27 Call for Applications is also available in [Arabic](#), [French](#), [Indonesian](#), [Portuguese](#), [Spanish](#), and [Swahili](#).

Additional details and resources for applicants are available on the [How to Apply page](#) at meap.library.ucla.edu. Questions? Ask us at meap@library.ucla.edu.