

Non-Governmental Sources of Support for Global Resources

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For more than twenty years non-governmental sources of support for global resources have vastly outstripped funding from Federal sources. Those non-Federal sources include self-funding by universities, corporate support, contributions from foundations, and gifts from individual donors. While not downplaying the significance of government funds, the highest priority should be placed on expanding non-governmental support to achieve goals identified by the Global Forum.

Non-Federal sources of funding for libraries and archives include the following, in order of their overall financial contributions:

1. Self-funding by universities and consortia constitutes the largest contribution towards the development of library and archival resources for global and international studies. Major categories of support, ordered by amount, include: a) staff salaries, b) infrastructure, c) acquisitions, d) preservation and digitization, and e) travel, etc.
2. Corporate support would, until the beginning of Google Books, have followed the contribution from foundations. Google's contributions and, to a lesser extent, those of other corporate players in digitization and access have altered the calculus.
3. Foundations, most notably the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Carnegie Corporation, and Ford Foundation continue to contribute substantially towards enhanced acquisition, preservation, digitization, and access to materials for area and global studies.
4. Individual donors are usually linked to specific universities, endowing acquisitions funds, providing expendable funds for library programs, and in other ways supporting the expansion of scholarly resources.

Federal funding for collection development in area studies has decreased over the past twenty years. The Public Law 480 Program or the Farmington Plan which supported acquisition of foreign publications for U.S. universities ended at different times during the 1970s through 90s depending on when counterpart foreign currencies were exhausted. The conclusion of that funding was a "fiscal cliff" for many university libraries. And yet, universities with solid commitments to world areas were able to convert to dollar payments and maintain acquisitions profiles roughly comparable to those in force when Federal funds paid for the acquisitions.

Subsequently, the Department of Education phased out support for acquisitions and preservation under Title IIC. More recently Congressional rescission of funding for the Department of Education's Title VI programs resulted in the termination of the program named Technological Innovation and Cooperation for Foreign Information Access (TICFIA) and reduced funding for National Resource Centers (NRC) by more than 47% during the current and coming fiscal year. Following those cuts, many NRCs withdrew support for library and archive initiatives on their campuses to fit within their reduced means. Even prior to those reductions, the percentage of NRC grants used to fund library acquisitions and initiatives was notably low.

Finally, resources available via the National Endowment for the Humanities for preservation and access projects have been reduced over the past two years.

The Global Forum should develop plans which will encourage sustenance and expansion of non-governmental support from universities, corporations, foundations, and individual donors to expand library and archival resources supporting area and international studies.