A team led by the Penn State University Libraries, in collaboration with the University of Missouri–Kansas City University (UMKC) Libraries, was recently awarded $99,429 in grant funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services’ National Leadership Grants program. The grant, titled “Collective Responsibility: National Forum on Labor Practices for Grant-Funded Digital Positions,” will enable the team to host two meetings to explore labor issues that inform the experiences of grant-funded digital laborers in the libraries, archives, and museums communities along with developing ethical labor practices for grant-funded positions. The project, led by Ruth Kitchin Tillman, cataloging systems and linked data strategist for the Penn State University Libraries, and Sandy Rodriguez, head of Digital Archives and Stewardship at UMKC Libraries, will run from October 1, 2018, through March 2020 and will consist of two meetings for up to 40 participants in 2019, one in spring on “Experience” and one in fall on “Practices.” Both meetings seek to foster collaboration between funders, institutional participants, and grant laborers to learn from those already doing the work and challenge barriers to progress.

Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) has been awarded $2.75 million by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to help establish sound data management in African American and African Studies by building a professional cohort of knowledgeable specialists through post-doctoral positions. The grant will support two overlapping cohorts of five fellows each, starting in summer 2019, working at U.S. or Canadian institutions with strong programs in African American and African Studies. CLIR will post fellowship openings in early December 2018 at https://www.clir.org/fellowships/postdoc. The candidate application deadline will be January 4, 2019, with fellows announced in June 2019.

Indiana University (IU) Libraries has received a $1.2 million grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to develop the ability to search digitized audiovisual files. IU Libraries will work extensively with project partners at University of Texas-Austin, New York Public Library, and information management consultant AVP. Together the team will develop and test a scalable Audiovisual Metadata Platform, known as AMP, to generate searchable time-stamped descriptions for audiovisual content.

Acquisitions

A complete set of the early Soviet art magazine Tvorchestvo (roughly translated as “Creation”), including all 23 issues running from 1918 to 1922, has been acquired by the Graphic Arts Collection at Princeton University Libraries. The print runs of Tvorchestvo gradually decreased from 10,200 to 20,200 copies in 1920, 10,000 copies in 1921, and 5,000 copies in 1922.