Year 2014 RBDB Member Project Grant Proposals

Summary Descriptions ($30,000 in RBDB available in member grant funding)

Background
RBDB is a formula funding program established by New York State in Chapter 917 of the Laws of 1990. If fully funded, the WNYLRC would receive $229,967. The calendar year for the program runs January 1 – December 31. The 2013 RBDB member grant proposal budget was reviewed by RAC in March 2012 and again in August 2012. $50,000 was budgeted for member grant proposals and $800.00 for the Reading Team. Member proposals must satisfy one or more goals as stated in the WNYLRC 5-Year Plan of Service (July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2016) and meet annual Member Grant Guidelines as provided.

Funds for the Regional Bibliographic Data Bases and Interlibrary Resources Sharing Program may be used for a variety of purposes with the primary goal being the promotion of resource sharing throughout the region. RBDB is a state grant program provided to the NY 3Rs and whose regionally funded projects and activities are overseen by WNYLRC’s Regional Advisory Committee (RAC). Projects funded under RBDB include WNYLRC regional programs such as Ask Us 24/7 and participation in New York Heritage as well as WNYLRC member projects that contribute to regional resource sharing, coordinated services, and professional development. Requested RBDB funding for all projects, including ongoing WNYLRC programs and initiatives and WNYLRC member grant projects, need to show how the project will enhance access to information within the region. All programs funded through RBDB must adhere to the WNYLRC Guiding Principles and regional purposes as stated in WNYLRC’s Strategic Plan of Service: July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2016. A copy of the complete plan is available on our web site at: http://www.wnylrc.org and includes the following goals and objectives that RBDB member grants may adhere to:

Element 1 - Resource Sharing
5. Other – Information Access
   Goal: Improve or expand existing programs (i.e. WNYLRC’s InfoPass program) or establish partnerships with member libraries and library systems, other 3R Councils, and/or with libraries and organizations outside our region to widen the access to collections and information through additional program initiatives.
   Intended result: Borderless access to library collections in at least New York State.

Element 3 - Professional Development and Continuing Education
1. Members
   Goal: Provide WNYLRC members and the wider Western New York library community with high-quality in-person and online training on a variety of topics that will contribute to both professional and personal growth.
   Intended result: WNYLRC staff will work with WNYLRC to plan and host educational and topical training sessions for librarians, library assistants, staff from under-served libraries, and non-members in the Western New York area to increase knowledge and develop skills that will contribute to professional and personal growth. Topics may include current trends in the field, best practices, consumer health information, time management, preservation, e-books, emerging technologies, and other relevant areas of interest to our members.

Element 4 - Consulting and Development Services
2. Other: Research and Development
   Goal: Explore, identify, and incubate innovative technologies, theories, methods, original research, and programs for library use that adhere to WNYLRC’s established guiding principles.
   Intended result: With assistance from WNYLRC Committees (i.e. Regional Advisory Committee) WNYLRC will provide a testing environment for new and relevant technologies, programs, and pilots for WNYLRC member libraries to improve outreach, workflows, or services to its own patrons and member libraries.
**Element 5 - Coordinated Services**

2. Digitization - New York Heritage

**Goal:** Continue to enhance the regional digitization program through which WNYLRC members are able to digitize collections documenting the rich history of the Western New York region and make the collections freely available online with collections from other NY 3Rs member libraries around New York State through the state-wide portal New York Heritage.

**Intended result:** WNYLRC members will reach a wider statewide audience by sharing digitized collections online and library users will be able to access collections from across New York State through one web site.

**Development**

The following process has been used to develop the WNYLRC proposal:

- Following the Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) guidelines for RBDB applications, applications were made available to all WNYLRC member libraries and library systems between July and September and proposals received shortly thereafter. The RBDB Reading Team reads the proposals sometime in the fall. The Reading Team is comprised of individuals from outside our region who have experience with automation projects in other Councils.

- Once the RBDB Reading Team reviews the grant proposals, they forward their recommendations to the Regional Advisory Committee (RAC). RAC reviews the RBDB Reading Team recommendations and continues the approval process for funding. RAC then forwards their recommendations to the WNYLRC Board of Trustees for final approval. WNYLRC’s Executive Director includes the grant proposal summaries in application for RBDB funding in May.

**Member Grants Proposals**

1. Buffalo & Erie County Public Library – Central Library. “Digitization of Buffalo City Directories 1894-1903.”

   **Requesting:** $20,059  **Funded:** $0

   (Goal 1 and 5)

   Proposal to Buffalo City Directories in the Special Collections/Grosvenor Room of BECPL.

   Access to the information contained in these city directories is vital to anyone researching local people and places in history. The directories will be digitized, OCRed and uploaded to New York Heritage. This proposal expands on a previously funded directories digitization project that covered the years 1894-1903. RBDB funded a 2011 and 2013 grant to digitize volumes 1828-1893 collectively.

   The 2014 RBDB Reading Team felt that this is a very worthwhile project. However, due to the small amount of funding available and previous RBDB funding of the directories in the past, the RBDB Reading Team is regrettably not able to fund the digitization of the directories for 2014. The Reading Team hopes BECPL will find a way to support this project in-house or through other outside funding.


   **Requesting:** $14,018  **Funded:** $9,000

   (Goal 1 and 5)

   The Island Dispatch is a local newspaper of record on Grand Island – a small island community in the Niagara River. This is the third phase – to digitize issues from 1979-1988. The Board of Trustees has committed to the project and is willing to commit more funds to this project.
The 2014 RBDB Reading Team felt that this is a very worthwhile project particularly since 2014 RBDB Grant guidelines stated that funding newspaper digitization projects would be given a higher priority. However, due to the small amount of funding available, the RBDB Reading Team is regrettably not able to fund this request in full and encourages the Grand Island Memorial Library to locate additional funding to complete this important project. The Reading Team is recommending partial funding in the amount of $9,000.

   Requesting: $26,926  
   Funded: $9,000  
   (Goal 1 and 5)

Proposal to digitize Portville Free Library newspapers including: Autograph (1900-1909), Review (1909-1952), and Portville Star (1954-1969). There is an estimated 24,700 images in this collection.

The 2014 RBDB Reading Team felt that this is a very worthwhile project particularly since 2014 RBDB Grant guidelines stated that funding newspaper digitization projects would be given a higher priority. However, due to the small amount of funding available, the RBDB Reading Team is regrettably not able to fund this request in full and encourages the Portville Free Library and CCLS to locate additional funding to complete this important project. The Reading Team is recommending partial funding in the amount of $9,000. Additionally, the Reading Team felt that future applications from this library and system provide more specific detail on the uniqueness of the collection and its relevance to the region with more details on news coverage not easily found elsewhere.

4. Niagara Falls Public Library/Nioga Library System. “Through the River and Over the Falls:
   Stories and Photographs of Niagara Falls’ Daredevils”
   Requesting: $2,982  
   Funded: $2,982  
   (Goal 1 and 5)

For over 100 years, Niagara Falls as drawn daredevils to brae the rapids. People have gone over Niagara Falls in barrels, swam the Niagara River, and walked over on a tightrope. This proposal is to digitize a heavily-used collection that includes approximately 125 photographs (the majority of which are not online), a rare and fragile 7 page 1862 book about Monsieur Blondin, advertisements, and a collection of manuscripts about daredevils by Orrin E. Dunlap.

The 2014 RBDB Reading Team was very enthusiastic about this project and overwhelmingly felt the digitization of the proposed content will be a huge draw for history buffs and researchers. The RBDB Reading Team is recommending full funding for this project.

5. University at Buffalo. “Local Women’s History Portal, Phase Two: Junior League of Buffalo”
   $6,680  
   Funded: $6,680  
   (Goal 1 and 5)

Proposal to digitize published 200 photographs, archival documents and ephemeral items documenting the important persons and events associated with the Junior League of Buffalo, NY and its distinguished history as one of the earliest women’s clubs in the US.

The 2014 RBDB Reading Team felt this is a very worthwhile digitization project and is recommending full funding of the proposal.

   Shared Collection Program: Last Copy Monographs Phase)”
   Requesting: $10,400  
   Funded: $2,338  
   (Goal 1)
Phase 3 of the proposal to collaborate with other WNYLRC member libraries in establishing a collaborative print depository in WNY, will focus on recruiting more multi-type libraries, transfer volumes to the Annex to complete journal runs, de-accession duplicative library materials through the region, design, build and maintain the Empire Shared Collection Program website, hire and train student assistants to assist in collection analysis including identifying print monograph overlap among participating libraries, transfer holdings to the Empire Shared Collection OCLC holdings symbol, and explore technologies that provide the best platforms to optimize access to the Empire Shared Collection for multi-type participating institutions. The depository would promote the management and preservation of low-use print legacy collections and assure their ready and perpetual access to scholars and researchers in WNY. The first two phases were funded through a 2012 and 2013 RBDB Grant.

The 2014 RBDB Reading Team felt that this is a very worthwhile project. However, due to the small amount of funding available and previous RBDB funding of this initiative in 2012 and 2013, the RBDB Reading Team is only able to partially fund this project in the amount of $2,338. Additionally, the Reading Team would have preferred more information on the project’s accomplishments and/or a website that could provide details on the project to date.

Additional comments regarding the 2014 RBDB Member Grant Proposals:

In General the RBDB Reading Team would like to see more accountability for multi-year project proposals. Projects that are results-oriented will be given higher priority for repeat funding. The Reading Team would like proposals to provide specific details on the uniqueness of a collection in digitization proposals that demonstrate why the collection is important to the region, what content is covered in the resources that are not easily found elsewhere, and how it specifically enhances local and/or national research through examples, stories, and anecdotal evidence.