

**“No longer effectuates agency priorities:”
Defending the De-Funded Humanities**

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Quotations from slides

Grant termination letter:

“Your grant no longer effectuates the agency’s needs and priorities and conditions of the Grant Agreement and is subject to termination due to several reasonable causes, as outlined in 2CFR§200.340. NEH has reasonable cause to terminate your grant in light of the fact that the NEH is repurposing its funding allocations in a new direction in furtherance of the President’s agenda.

Your grant’s immediate termination is necessary to safeguard the interests of the federal government, including its fiscal priorities. The termination of your grant represents an urgent priority for the administration, and due to exceptional circumstances, adherence to the traditional notification process is not possible.”

Letter from Ben Ross Schneider, Jr. to Leeds Barrol, Lawrence University Archives:

“Our system cannot become obsolete from advances in hardware, because our programs are written in BASIC and PL/I, assiduously supported by Digital Equipment Corporation and IBM, the two leading computer manufacturers: there is no chance that either will build computers that are incompatible with these programming languages, or that Lawrence would be so foolhardy as to buy computers incompatible with ten years programming work.”

LSDB Data Management Plan (2023):

“The project team will continue to promote data access, reuse, and distribution by...submitting the final project data and metadata for re-review and re-federation into the Advanced Research Consortium’s 18thConnect and NINES discovery platforms.”

Ben Ross Schneider, Jr., *Travels in Computerland* (1974):

“We can study trends (the rise of pantomime; the interest in Shakespeare; the rise and fall of theatres; the decline of the drama); we can look for patterns (In what ways is one season like another? What is a typical stage career like? To what extent do actors specialize? What is the effect of the repertory system?). There’s too much information about 18th century theatre; without computer help we can’t see the forest for the trees.” (230)

Prologue to *The Sham Lawyer* (1697):

“For like our Mints, our Scribler has made bold,
To make all new by melting down the Old.
Nor can you blame him, if he has the Skill,
But to maintain the Ancient Standard still;
For, what he finds in weight deficient grown.
He will make good with Bullion of his own.”

Links and References

Project Links:

- <https://londonstagedatabase.uoregon.edu/>
- <https://blogs.uoregon.edu/londonstage/>
- <https://bsky.app/profile/londonstagedb.bsky.social>
- <https://podcast.data-is-plural.com/2159594/12535551>
- <https://apps.neh.gov/publicquery/AwardDetail.aspx?gn=HAA-258717-18>
- <https://apps.neh.gov/publicquery/AwardDetail.aspx?gn=HAA-300527-24>
- <https://www.economist.com/graphic-detail/2019/10/26/when-was-greatness-thrust-upon-william-shakespeare>
- <https://nightingaledvs.com/data-is-plural-submissions-london-stage-database>

Other Links:

- <https://estc.printprobability.org/>
- <https://xkcd.com/1909>
- <https://nhalliance.org/federal-funding/savetheneh/>
- <https://talkingpointsmemo.com/edblog/a-nigerian-prince-canceled-your-neh-grant-no-really>
- <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/04/10/arts/trump-garden-heroes-humanities.html>
- <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/03/restoring-truth-and-sanity-to-american-history/>
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- *The London Stage, 1660-1800; a Calendar of Plays, Entertainments & Afterpieces, Together with Casts, Box-Receipts and Contemporary Comment*. Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 1960. <https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/000200105>.
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