Intro to the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS)

Faculty Grants Luncheon

May 13, 2015
What Is ACLS?

• Umbrella organization of professional societies in humanities and humanistic social sciences
• Member organizations range (alphabetically) from African Studies Association to World History Association
• Fellowships funded by grants from NEH, Mellon Foundation, support from member organizations, etc.
Fellowship Types

5 Fellowships open to all humanities disciplines:

1. ACLS Fellowships
2. Collaborative Research Fellowships
3. Digital Innovation Fellowships
4. Charles A. Ryskamp Research Fellowships
5. Frederick Burkhardt Residential Fellowships for Recently Tenured Scholars

Of these, 1-3 are open to faculty and independent researchers at all career stages.
ACLS Fellowships

Application components:

- Application Form
- 5 page, double-spaced, Times New Roman 11-point proposal
- Bibliography (2 pages)
- Publications list (2 pages)
- 2 letters of reference
Questions to Ask

- How far along is my project?
- What is my intended final product?
- How close to completion will I be at the end of a 1 year leave?
- Who should write references for me?
Peer Review Process

• 2 stage peer review
  • 1\textsuperscript{st} stage: scores assigned by panel selected to approximate your disciplinary areas as closely as possible
  • 2\textsuperscript{nd} stage: finalists ranked by a panel with representatives of all member societies

• More questions to ask
  • How do I convey the intellectual significance of my project to the humanities as a whole, while still addressing the topmost concerns of scholars in my discipline?
Basic Facts

• Deadline will likely be in late September (to be announced in July)

• <10% of applications were selected for funding last year

• Other ACLS Programs:
  • Ryskamp must be applied for before your tenure decision. Potentially useful in preparing for a first sabbatical.
  • Burkhardt only open to recently (w/in last 4 years) tenured scholars. Must be taken residentially at an eligible site.
  • Collaborative Research and Digital Innovation Fellowships have different application requirements, including a detailed budget.
  • More info: https://www.acls.org/