

**Bates**

Sponsored Programs

# 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<sup>st</sup> stage: scores assigned by panel selected to approximate your disciplinary areas as closely as possible
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 residually at an eligible site.
  - Collaborative Research and Digital Innovation Fellowships have different application requirements, including a detailed budget.
  - More info: <https://www.acls.org/>