A Preliminary Analysis of National Endowment for the Humanities Funding Trends in Higher Education

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Abstract:
In 2018, the Preservation and Access Division of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) awarded 198 grants totaling 18.8 million dollars to libraries, archives, and museums in the United States, including repositories associated with academic institutions. These archival repositories exist in a diverse array of colleges and universities as reflected by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions in Higher Education (CCIHE), which captures characteristics such as level of research activity and enrollment demographics. Using openly accessible data from the NEH and the CCIHE, this presentation explores federal funding bias and its impact on academic institutions' ability to leverage public funds to provide access to cultural heritage resources. Analysis of NEH funding data for grants awarded by the Preservation and Access Division to colleges and universities compared against their respective CCIHE characteristics tests the hypothesis that academic institutions with the highest research activity as defined by the CCIHE receive the most federal support through grants.

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