



North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources

State Library of North Carolina
Administration and Library Development

Michael F. Easley, Governor
Lisbeth C. Evans, Secretary

Sandra M. Cooper, State Librarian

Memorandum

To: Directors, North Carolina Public & Academic Libraries
From: Sandra M. Cooper, State Librarian
Date: August 2, 2002
Subject: **Digitization Starter Grants Available**

The State Library is pleased to announce that funds will be available under the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) for *Digitization Starter Grants* in 2002-2003. Grants of up to \$8,000 will be awarded in November 2002, **with applications due September 30, 2002**. The grants have no matching requirement.

The "Starter Grant" program is a component of the LSTA-funded project North Carolina ECHO ("*Exploring Cultural Heritage Online*"). NC ECHO's goal is to use digital technologies to broaden access to the unique collections housed in North Carolina's libraries, archives, museums, and historical societies. The purpose of the Starter Grants is to help libraries with little or no background or experience in digitization to "get started". The target library for this grant program:

- has primary research material (photographs, manuscripts, maps, pamphlets, etc.) which has already been arranged, cataloged and is properly stored, AND
- lacks some or all of the equipment necessary to digitize, store and make images accessible via the Internet, AND
- lacks staff trained to digitize these materials and make them available via the Internet.

Recipients of a Starter Grant will either have a staff member who attended, or will send a staff person to, the week-long North Carolina ECHO Digitization Institute to be trained in how to use the equipment and in the standard digitization practices developed for ECHO. NC ECHO provides scholarships to pay the travel costs for participants, and Starter Grant recipients will be guaranteed a seat in the March 2003 institute if they do not have a staff member who attended the 2002 institute.

The application information is available at the State Library's Web site. The packet is available as a PDF file for downloading, reading, and printing using an Adobe Acrobat Reader. It is also posted as a Microsoft® Word 2000 document. The URL for the information is <http://statelibrary.dcr.state.nc.us/lsta/lsta.htm>.

For additional information, please contact the State Library's Federal Programs Consultant Penny Hornsby by telephone at 919.733.2570, or e-mail at phornsby@library.dcr.state.nc.us.