Endangered Material Knowledge Programme

Frequently Asked Questions

What is material practice and knowledge?

Material practice and knowledge, as understood by the EMKP, is concerned with things, objects, and architecture and their related practices. We are interested in projects recording how things are made and used within a community. Our understanding of material knowledge and practice includes, but is not limited to, the *chaîne opératoire*, the process of designing, producing and using, the materiality of things, the building and life of structures, and how "things" form part of the community and its events.

Affiliations to which institutions fulfil the eligibility criteria?

While not strictly limited to academic institutions, applicants are required to be affiliated with institutions that can oversee accounts, take receipt of and manage funds, and provide expenditure reports independently of the applicant. It is also a requirement that the institution has set ethics guidelines. Thus, NGOs and social enterprises, for example, are not excluded and demonstrating a track record of managing previous grants is helpful.

What if my institution has no accepted ethics guidelines?

You can follow a widely accepted standard, such as that of the Association of Social Anthropologists (https://www.theasa.org/downloads/ethics/Ethical_guidelines.pdf). Your institution is required to ensure you follow those guidelines and should mention that in its letter of support.

Are certain geographical regions excluded?

No geographical area is excluded, though preference will be given to projects located in countries where little funding infrastructure is available.

Is the project eligible for funding if the knowledge has not been completely lost but people stopped practicing it?

EMKP does not support rejuvenating lost practices, however, a project is viable for funding if there are people who retained the knowledge and occasionally utilise endangered material knowledge.

EMKP FAQ, v.1

What is not eligible for funding?

The main objective of EMKP is to record endangered material practices. As such, we will not fund projects whose main objective is the digitisation of existing images, collections, or objects, though these can form part of a project, as for example a 3D model of a product produced during the study of the material practice. Funding opportunities to record and digitise at danger archives and collections can be found with Arcadia's related programmes. These are the British Library's Endangered Archive's Programme (https://eap.bl.uk/) and the UCLA library's Documenting Global Voices (https://www.library.ucla.edu/documenting-global-voices).

We do not specifically fund the recording of endangered languages but acknowledge that language forms part of material knowledge and how "things" or objects are referred to and talked about. Projects that include an element of language recording are eligible, but the primary goal of the project must be around the documentation of material practices. The Endangered Languages Documentation Programme (https://www.eldp.net/) provides funding for projects concerned with preserving languages.

Can organisations apply?

Organisations as such cannot apply. For accountability purposes, we require one lead applicant and there is an option to add up to three collaborators who can have different levels of responsibilities.

What is meant under 'open access' and what do I need to be aware of?

EMKP follows the Arcadia's Open access policy, which can be found here (https://www.arcadiafund.org.uk/about-peter-baldwin-lisbet-rausing/open-access-and-digital-preservation-policy/ and https://www.arcadiafund.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/How-we-do-Open-Access-1-1.pdf).

It will be possible to embargo certain assets if these contain sensitive material, but this can only occur in exceptional circumstances.

What is the difference between a collaborator and a research assistant?

A collaborator is somebody who has a defined role and will take on a degree of responsibility for the project, has specific skills that the project requires, oversees certain aspects of it, and contributes to the delivery of assets. Please make clear the role and skills of each collaborator within the project. A research assistant does not share that level of responsibility.

Does the grant cover overhead costs, salaries and contractual work?

EMKP cannot cover institutional overheads, contract work or researcher salary, aside from costs associated with research assistant salaries. Collaborators are generally not paid from the grant. In certain circumstances, source community-based collaborators (see above) can be remunerated for their work, however, a clear motivation needs to be given within the 'Budget and Equipment' section of the application form.

Can I write my application in another language?

No, the application has to be completed in English.