

NEH grants to independent research libraries. At a December 8 ceremony at the White House, the National Endowment for the Humanities launched a \$5,325,000 special initiative for independent research libraries. Thirteen libraries are receiving grants ranging from \$100,000 to \$2 million which must be matched three to one from non-federal sources. The NEH press release noted three reasons for making the grants: 1) independent research libraries collect, preserve, and promote research in important records of the past; 2) these libraries have demonstrated that they can carry out their mission intelligently and efficiently; and 3) they need substantial financial assistance to continue providing their basic services.

President Reagan met with the library directors and made remarks at the ceremony. In a prepared statement he said: "Our research libraries are repositories for the accumulated knowledge and teaching of civilization. We owe it to ourselves and our children to preserve these rich treasures for the generations to come.... Independent research libraries play a vital role in the cultural life of our nation. As centers for research and learning, they reflect our collective commitment to education and to intellectual freedom and growth--the survival of these institutions is essential." He also emphasized the expected private sector contributions.

<u>Recipient Libraries</u>	<u>Amount of NEH Grant</u>
American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, Mass.	\$ 400,000
American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia	175,000
Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, D.C.	500,000
Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia	200,000
Huntington Library, San Marino, California	500,000
Library Company of Philadelphia	100,000
Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston	100,000
Newberry Library, Chicago	750,000
New York Academy of Medicine, New York City	100,000
New York Historical Society, New York City	100,000
New York Public Library, New York City	2,000,000
Pierpont Morgan Library, New York City	300,000
Virginia Historical Society, Richmond	100,000

Senate Committee votes research library increase. On December 8 the Senate Appropriations Committee approved a slight increase in the Higher Education Act Title II-C Research Library Program--from \$5,760,000 to \$6 million. The Committee approved the current level of \$1,920,000 for the HEA II-A College Library Program but warned that future funding might depend on establishment of a needs criteria so that funds went only to the most deserving institutions. The House has passed the current levels of funding for college, research, and public libraries, and these levels are most likely to be carried forward into law. However, the Senate Committee action is encouraging, especially in light of the Administration's proposal to eliminate all library programs.