



ACF Research Grants During COVID-19: New Grant Category

Covid-19 has created a major global disruption since last year's Marian Hebb Research grant application deadline. Research projects of all kinds have been impacted by travel restrictions, lockdowns and closures.

Typically, Access Copyright Foundation research projects include domestic or international travel to conduct in situ research; in-person interviews or focus groups; information gathering through attendance at symposia, conferences or workshops, and bibliographic or documentary research at institutions with special collections. The COVID-19 pandemic hit one month after the 2020 application deadline, creating a great deal of uncertainty and concern. Global lockdowns forced the revision, cancellation or postponement of virtually all ACF Research projects.

ACF responded by offering successful applicants the option of accepting a smaller grant to cover at-home research with few third-party expenses. The Research grant jury recommended grant amounts for each applicant's original project proposal (Plan A Grant) as well as a subsistence-only period of at-home research (Plan B Grant). Over 90% of grant recipients accepted the lower level of funding. This enabled them to avoid the risk of travel while enabling ACF to support more projects. And being Creators, grant recipients addressed their Inquiry Questions with ingenuity and resourcefulness.

Pandemic related restrictions are likely to persist well into 2021. Access Copyright Foundation is therefore asking this year's Marian Hebb Research Grant Creators' applicants to elect one of two options:

Creators Plan A Grant:

Creators may apply as usual for up to \$7,500, providing a breakdown of research travel expenses, eligible activities and timeline as outlined in the ACF Program Guidelines.

Plan A travel and research activities must be undertaken within one year of results notification and final reports must include documentation and receipts for major expenses.



Creators Plan B Grant:

Creators may elect to apply for a grant of up to \$3,000 to pursue digital, bibliographic, documentary or remote research from home. The grant may be used to cover subsistence, books, local transportation, video conferencing costs or access to online events or platforms. Plan B applicants must describe their proposed research activities and workplan but will not be required to submit receipts with their final report.

The level of funding awarded in each grant category will be as recommended by the Research Grant jury based on their assessment of an application's merit against the program adjudication criteria and its final ranking. Please indicate Plan A or Plan B grant in your budget.

Organizations and Publishers may apply for up to \$10,000 whether their research activities will be conducted in person or virtually.

Please contact the Program Consultant with any questions or concerns.

Access Copyright Foundation provides support to creators and organizations engaged in the development and dissemination of publishable Canadian works in the literary and visual arts. We are an arm's length foundation of Access Copyright, the collective voice of creators and publishers in Canada.