

## ERLAND KOLDING NIELSEN GRANT – Application Form

---

*The Erland Kolding Nielsen Grant celebrates the enormous contribution Erland Kolding Nielsen has made to the development of European libraries throughout his long and distinguished career.*

*The Erland Kolding Nielsen Grant is a grant of up to €5,000, which is awarded to a CENL member library project that promotes international collaboration and strengthens bonds between CENL libraries.*

### Application eligibility criteria:

- Your employer is a CENL member
- Your national library is up to date with CENL membership fee payments
- All collaboration activities are in partnership with other CENL members and will foster international collaboration

### Grant application proposal (maximum of 2 pages)

The Grant can focus on any aspect of international library collaboration. The first part of your proposal should provide details of the actual international collaborative aspect. This could be in a multitude of ways such as:

- Development of collections (physical and digital)
- Improving research
- Educational or cultural services including exhibitions
- Promoting interlibrary staff communications
- Infrastructure development
- Staff development

The second part of your proposal should outline the anticipated benefits of the proposed collaborative activity, and provide an estimation of the costs for carrying out the activity. The main proposer should complete this form and provide details of other collaborators.

If you meet the criteria above and would like to apply for this grant, please complete this form, including your proposal, and submit it to the CENL Secretariat at [cenl@dnb.de](mailto:cenl@dnb.de) by **7 February 2025**. Applications will be reviewed by the Executive Committee and the outcome will be announced by March 2025.

### Conditions of grant

- Outputs of the grants have to be publicly demonstrable and shareable.
- The successful applicant will submit a report to the CENL Secretariat after the proposed event has taken place. This report will be published on the CENL website.
- The successful applicant (or a representative from their institution) will give a presentation to the CENL membership at the next Annual General Meeting following the completion of the project.
- Statement of costs must be provided estimating the anticipated costs, and if approved your organisation will receive 80% of the grant upfront with the remainder of the grant being paid upon completion of the project.
- Details of expenses, with original receipts, must be provided to verify all costs incurred. Final payment will only be made if the relevant documentation is provided.
- Where the grant is not used, any underspend must be repaid to the CENL Secretariat.
- Grant payments will be paid into the main proposer's account. The main proposer will be responsible for ensuring that collaborators are reimbursed for appropriate expenses.

## GRANT APPLICATION FORM

### 1. Organisation Details

Applicant information				
	Name	Organisation	Job Title	email and phone
Main proposer	Dávid Rózsa	Hungarian National Museum Public Collection Centre National Széchényi Library (HNMPCC NSZL)	General Director	<a href="mailto:director@oszk.hu">director@oszk.hu</a> +36 1 224 3881
Collaborator 1	Amina Shah	National Library of Scotland	National Librarian and Chief Executive National Library of Scotland	<a href="mailto:Amina.Shah@nls.uk">Amina.Shah@nls.uk</a> 01216233700
Collaborator 2				
Collaborator 3				
Collaborator 4				
Confirm that you meet the grant application eligibility criteria (listed above)				<u>Yes/No</u>
Signed: <i>A. Shah / Amina Shah</i>				
Date: 06/02/25				

## 2. Proposal for international collaboration

As for digital philology there are three pillars of cooperation: georeferenced mapmaking; HTR (Handwritten Text Recognition)-model building and data visualization.

Since both libraries are dealing with infotainment tools, the knowledge exchange regarding methods, techniques and diverse usage would be highly beneficial. One of the main targets of our conjoint expertise in this field would be georeferenced and pin marked maps, especially the question of linking the libraries data, collections and digital services together with maps.

Taking into consideration that our institutions are both holding a large amount of national language (Gaelic and Hungarian) manuscript, sharing experiences on how to deal with minor languages, using special characters (like Gaelic and Hungarian), we could improve our strategies in manuscript digitalization and even in HTR-model building. This field of collaboration is even more crucial to us, because we are using the same software, *Transkribus* (market leading HTR software in Europe).

Data derived from digitized manuscripts and/or printed materials lead to visualizations. Formulating their structure and finding their main message for library users is our third main goal in this cooperation. As national institutions we can reach broad audiences, sharing experiences, how to implement and improve our data based digital visualizations are key elements in cultural mediation and public engagement.

The fourth area where useful cooperation could be developed is the usability of archived web content for research purposes, and the development of data mining and data visualization of this content. Both parties have experience in this area, and sharing good practices and experience in text and data mining for small languages can be very fruitful. For the NLS, relevant experience includes the Archive of Tomorrow project and Andrea Kocsis' grant to work on the accessibility and searchability of the NLS web archive. For the NSZL, the text and data mining and data visualization of the web archive's sub-collections could be considered as a good practice to be shared.

The collaboration would advance four of the objectives supported by the Erland Kolding Nielsen Grant:

- Infrastructure development
- Development of digital collections
- Improving research
- Promoting interlibrary staff communications

### 3. Previous Collaborations

There is currently no formal cooperation agreement between the National Széchényi Library and National Library of Scotland but the institutions are open to and are planning a formalize their professional cooperation in the near future.

The informal channels are working well and informal cooperation between the two institutions has been successful.

### 4. Benefits

By discussing technical details of our everyday work, strategies, just like seeking and finding solutions can result valuable knowledge for us and even other CENL members in the field of digital humanities, especially the benefits of AI based manuscript digitalization (HTR software). Maps and data visualizations reconstruct traditional knowledge contained by libraries. Knowing how to reconstruct this knowledge efficiently is one of the most important tasks of public collections. So, our project can share new approaches and tools, how to make national cultural heritage accessible for scholars and the wider audience as well.

Providing access to web archives for research purposes is a priority for all national libraries that carry out web archiving activities. The text and data mining and data visualization processes resulting from the project may also be of international interest.

### 5. Estimated cost of proposal

The travel and accommodation costs of 2 colleagues from the NSZL for a study visit to Edinburgh, Scotland:

Travel costs (including flight ticket, airport transfer, travel insurance, local transportation): **2000 EUR**

Accommodation (2 nights): **960 EUR**

The travel and accommodation costs of 2 colleagues from National Library of Scotland for a study visit to Budapest:

Travel costs (including flight ticket, airport transfer, travel insurance, local transportation): **1400 EUR**

Accommodation (2 nights): **600 EUR**

**In total: 4 960 EUR**