

1978: College Library Program Concludes

In 1978, CLR brought its decade-long College Library Program to a close. CLR had initiated the program to support libraries seeking to assume a more active, meaningful role in undergraduate education. In partnership with the National Endowment for the Humanities, CLR established a fund, initially investing \$250,000, from which matching grants could be made to individual colleges and universities for activities to provide cohesive links between library services and classroom instruction related to the humanities or areas of the social sciences that use humanistic methods.

By 1978, the program had awarded grants to 35 college and university libraries, including 6 HBCUs, in 25 states.

A faculty member from one of the recipient institutions, Mills College, described the project's impact with regard to usage of the Bender Room, which housed a rare book and manuscript collection:

“The difference between the operation of the Bender Room when I arrived at Mills in 1970 and now in 1979 is the difference between night and day. When I came to Mills the room was open only a few hours a week, there was no easy-to-use index of its holdings, and there was no staff encouragement to use the room. ... One used to show it to visitors by peering through the locked glass doors. Now this beautiful space ... and the collection of books and manuscripts has become one of the favorite campus spots for both faculty and students. It is an active gallery of changing exhibitions of books, prints, and related objects. It is a meeting room several days a week ... and most of all it is now a place where one can read, touch, and personally handle the rare treasures of the collection.”

An outgrowth of one of the earliest College Library Program awards was Project [LOEX](#) (Library Orientation-Instruction Exchange), located at Eastern Michigan University, an international clearinghouse for materials and information concerning library instruction and orientation.