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With the end of another calendar year, the NHPRC continues to carry out its commitment to identifying, preserving, and increasing access to the American documentary record. On November 1, President Clinton signed into law a bill reauthorizing the Commission to receive Federal appropriations for competitive grants up to \$10 million per year for fiscal years 2002 through 2005. There is much good work remaining for the Commission to do, and it is reassuring to have the mechanism in place to enable it to do so.

This December 2000 issue opens with a report on the November Commission meeting. At this first meeting of the fiscal year, the Commission considers proposals relating to its three equal strategic goals: Founding Fathers documentary editions, state board projects, and electronic records projects. This year was notable for surges both in the quality of grant proposals presented for consideration and in the dollar amounts requested. Meeting the pressing needs of grant applicants at this time required sacrifice. Because requests greatly exceeded appropriated funds, the Commission recommended that the annual NHPRC fellowships in archival administration and in historical documentary editing be suspended and the funds normally set aside for these programs be used instead to maintain the Founding Fathers documentary editions at last year's level of support.

Of the NHPRC's three equal strategic goals, perhaps the least widely understood is its support for research and development regarding solutions for the archival problems posed by electronic records. This issue of *Annotation* is devoted to some of the NHPRC's outstanding recent electronic records projects, including two projects that may prove to rank among the most significant actions ever taken by the NHPRC: namely, its support for the InterPARES project and the NHPRC-funded project undertaken by the San Diego Supercomputer Center.

Anne Gilliland-Swetland and Philip Eppard write about the InterPARES Project. InterPARES (International Research on Permanent Authentic Records in Electronic Systems) is a 3-year, multinational research project for which the Commission is funding participation by the non-Federal component of the U.S. team. Basically, this project is working to develop the knowledge that is needed to permanently preserve electronically created records and to ensure that they remain usable and trustworthy over long periods of time.

Amarnath Gupta, Bertram Ludaescher, and Richard Marciano, researchers at the San Diego Supercomputer Center (SDSC) at the University of California, San Diego, describe the NHPRC project, which is aimed at determining the scalability for smaller institutions of the solutions SDSC is developing for the long-term preservation of, and access to, software-dependent data objects.

Robert Horton reports on the Trustworthy Information Systems Project, the significant project of the State Archives Department of the Minnesota Historical Society.

Elaine D. Engst and Cheryl Stadel-Bevans write about the Cornell University Electronic Records Project, which investigated the requirements for electronic administrative records in a university setting.

Stephanie Simon of the Center for Technology in Government (CTG) at the State University of New York, University at Albany, describes CTG's recent project, funded in part by the NHPRC, to examine how public and private sector organizations acquire, save, maintain, and retrieve electronic business records for primary and secondary uses.

Philip Bantin explores lessons learned from the Indiana University Electronic Records Project regarding strategies for managing electronic records.

Happy New Year, everyone!