

National Visual/Audio Repository

1. The HEA/Forfás Research Infrastructure in Ireland report *Building for Tomorrow* (2007) noted the existence of a strong base of archives and repositories, including unique collections, which could underpin excellence in arts, humanities and social sciences research in Ireland.
2. In seeking bids for a digital visual/audio/textual repository the PRTLTI recognises that this infrastructure could, for example, include the provision of robust and up-to-date IT infrastructure, access and maintenance support for archives, access for researchers, storage and digitization through the provision of a shared trusted digital repository.
3. This strand aims to create a major resource for research in disciplines spanning the arts, humanities and social sciences, with scope for support of research more widely in other disciplines (e.g. architecture; engineering).
4. The range of areas of knowledge to which this strand relates is very wide. A visual archive and/or research collection could include, but is not limited to, areas such as photography; film and documentary; landscape; design history; folklore; archaeology, including industrial archaeology; the built environment; costume; national biography; advertising; theatre; private papers of historical significance. It may include digital, audio, audio-visual and/or textual resources to support research in a broad range of areas including, but not limited to, the arts, humanities and social sciences.
5. Bids under this strand should seek to expand and enhance existing collections and develop greater academic engagement through the provision of greater and more varied access.
6. Bids should also have due regard to the HEA policy relating to the placement of research publications in open access repositories which recognises that the intellectual effectiveness and progress of the widespread research community may be continually enhanced where the community has access and recourse to as wide a range of shared knowledge and findings as possible.
7. Components under this strand could be developed in a range of institutions, subject to being integrated into a national programme for the development and use of the research collections. Collections could be developed an institution, or in groups of institutions, with research strengths in areas relevant to the projected repository. International linkages should also be explored.
8. It is envisaged that such archives or research collections will require capital investment to support both dedicated facilities for the development, conservation and sustainability of collections (including digitization, where necessary), and for access to and use of collections by researchers. It is envisaged that this strand could be developed on the basis of collaboration between a wide range of higher-education and relevant cultural institutions. It is expected that collections will be developed within specific areas within individual institutions in line with their strategic missions, where the necessary physical and support infrastructure will be provided.
9. Any applicant under this PRTLTI strand must take account of the central role of the existing cultural institutions such as the National Archives, the National Gallery of Ireland, the National Library of Ireland, the National Museum of Ireland, the Irish Museum of Modern Art, the Chester Beatty Library, the National Concert Hall and public/private collections such as those held by RTÉ Libraries and Archives.
10. Bids for this targeted strand should include: detailed information on the projected scope of collections in specific research areas and plans for collection development,

conservation, digitization and access; statements of how projected research collections would support lines of research enquiry and graduate education; plans for the use of collections in support of research activities (e.g. conferences); archival and technical support of researchers in physical infrastructures developed as part of the projected repository. In the case of specific parts of the collection it will be desirable to include provision for remote delivery and access. Capital bids may therefore include provision for facilities which would allow researchers to access and use sources in the repository in centres other than those where individual records or sources are held.

- I I. Where the proposal involves more than one institution, it is envisaged that each partner institution will account for part of the total budget. A further portion of the budget may be applied to support centres in a wider range of institutions, through which access to the collection will be provided. Technical support at a range of levels will be required throughout the network of institutions using the repository.