Narrative Section of a Successful Application

The attached document contains the grant narrative of a previously funded grant application, which conforms to a past set of grant guidelines. It is not intended to serve as a model, but to give you a sense of how a successful application may be crafted. Every successful application is different, and each applicant is urged to prepare a proposal that reflects its unique project and aspirations. Prospective applicants should consult the application guidelines for instructions. Applicants are also strongly encouraged to consult with the NEH Division of Research Programs staff well before a grant deadline.

Note: The attachment only contains the grant narrative, not the entire funded application. In addition, certain portions may have been redacted to protect the privacy interests of an individual and/or to protect confidential commercial and financial information and/or to protect copyrighted materials.

Project Title: Naval Documents of the American Revolution (Planning grant)

Institution: University of Virginia

Project Director: Christopher Minty

Grant Program: Scholarly Editions and Translations Program

Narrative
1 October 2023 – 30 September 2024
Naval Documents of the American Revolution

The Center for Digital Editing at the University of Virginia (CDE) seeks funds to complete a one-year planning phase on its Naval Documents of the American Revolution project (NDAR; https://ndar-history.org/).

Significance and Impact: NDAR edits for publication documents that provide wide-ranging coverage of naval aspects of the American Revolution. Established at the Naval History Division and later based at Naval History and Heritage Command (NHHC), over 16,000 documents have been published in thirteen volumes, the most recent of which was published in 2019 (see the Appendices). Given the project's publication history and document corpus, it is reasonable to expect the series to take another fourteen volumes to go to the end of the war and the dissolution of the Continental Navy in July 1785. The project is now based at the CDE, a partner of NDAR since 2017, when the CDE and Perdue Digital Services, LLC, prepared and published a digital edition of the project's thirteen print volumes (https://ndar-history.org/). As NDAR's new editorial base, the CDE plans to complete the enterprise as a solely digital edition in collaboration with the Naval Historical Foundation (NHF), of Washington Navy Yard, D.C., with NHHC opening its doors to maintain access to the collection.[1] During the planning phase, editors also plan to identify additional collaborators that will expand the project's audiences, which, in turn, will broaden its outreach and engagement. The U.S. Naval Academy, of Annapolis, have already expressed interest regarding educational opportunities (see the Appendices).

 NDAR comprises over 22,000 documents, or 500,000 manuscript pages, that provide a comprehensive overview of the American Revolution at sea. Its documents include diaries, correspondence, petitions, and ships' logs, as well as muster rolls, orders, official reports, and newspaper accounts. The collection includes American, British, Dutch, French, and Spanish points of view and gives voice to common seamen, civilians, women, and enslaved people, as well as policymakers, political leaders, and naval and military officers. NDAR's corpus of documents represents the most extensive collection of source materials on the naval war of the American Revolution in existence. As one reviewer noted, "The compilation and publication of United States naval records on the American Revolution … bid fair to become the greatest contribution to the history of American warfare on the sea" (*Georgia Historical Quarterly* 49, no. 3 [1965]: 336).

 Editors do not publish every relevant document; they provide full coverage of naval aspects of the conflict and present a meaningful overview of the entire sea effort. NDAR publishes documents and materials that detail the activities of all of the Continental Navy's warships and most of those of the state navies. It also seeks to document the business of operating, coordinating, and maintaining the Continental and state navies and it chronicles privateers and privateering, both American and British. The Royal Navy in American waters is well-documented, as well. In particular, the activities of British squadrons and selected warships are included, along with British naval operations, logistics, convoys, transports, and manning. Maintaining and operating the Royal Navy is not included. Documents are also included that provide insight into the aims, strategy, and tactics of the British, account for prizes taken, and balance

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[1] The NHF was founded in 1926 and is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Its mission is to preserve and promote US naval history. It is not part of the U.S. Department of the Navy. For more, see https://www.navyhistory.org/about/mission/.

American accounts of naval operations and activities. The navies and naval activities of other European powers—France, the Netherlands, and Spain, for instance—are and will be treated similarly to the Royal Navy.

In short, NDAR publishes enough documentation of the European efforts to give context to those of the United States, and with its multi-faceted insights into the conflict, it provides an impressive overview of the American Revolution from both sides, allowing the reader the chance to make important comparisons and contrasts. Indeed, since the publication of volume 1 in 1964 and volume 13 in 2019, NDAR has thoroughly documented key moments of the conflict. Volume 1, for instance, included documents that detailed Lord Dunmore's removal of the gunpowder from the public magazine in Williamsburg, Va., on 20 April 1775, along with naval operations on Lake Champlain; the St. Lawrence, Richelieu, and Sorel rivers; and the capture of Fort Ticonderoga. Later volumes chronicled the capture of Newport and New York City by the British, along with the evacuation of Boston, and epistolary exchanges between British colonial governors in the Caribbean about the treatment of Americans. Among the individuals included are George Washington; John Paul Jones; John Burgoyne; Richard Howe, 1st Earl Howe; and John Montague, 4th Earl of Sandwich and First Lord of the Admiralty. Ship captains and commanders and seamen stationed across American and European theaters are also included. Volume 13, the most recent, largely deals with the arrival of a French fleet under the command of Charles Hector Théodat, Comte d'Estaing, on the East Coast, leading to the establishment of a naval headquarters in Newport, Rhode Island. It also chronicles the Battle of Ushant in Europe and Washington's plans for an allied seizure of New York City. Not only for historians, vexillologists, for instance, will find NDAR useful: volume 9 details the origin and symbolism of an ensign with "a red field with an hydra painted thereon," taken from the American privateer by HMS *Ajax* on 1 July 1777.

The continuance of NDAR will serve two important purposes. First, with its relocation to the CDE, progress will be made to ensure the project's timely completion, making the naval history of the American Revolution better known to scholars and the public. Second, as we look toward the U.S. Navy's and the Continental Marines' semiquincentennials in 2025 and U.S. semiquincentennial in 2026, NDAR will provide more documentary materials that will add to our understanding of the American Revolution and early American history, more broadly. Almost every major figure of the Revolution—American, British, Dutch, French, and Spanish—is represented within NDAR.

To date, NDAR has published thirteen volumes, bringing the series up to August 1778. The next volume, or batch of documents, will tentatively cover the remainder of 1778 and will include various significant events, including the British raid on Buzzard's Bay and Martha's Vineyard; the French capture of Dominica; privateers *General Hancock* v. *Levant*; *Providence*, *Boston*, and *Ranger* arrive in Portsmouth, N.H.; the fall of Pondicheery, India, to the British; the British capture of Savannah; and the French fleet's departure from Boston to the West Indies, among other important events. As CDE editors consider the series as a whole, they will reconsider a preliminary publication schedule that NDAR editors completed in September 2013. That is to say, the CDE will evaluate how editing and publishing processes can be refined to expedite the project's workflows within a digital publishing environment.

NDAR has contributed to changing historiographical interpretations of the Revolutionary War beyond its naval theaters. In *The Fisherman's Cause: Atlantic Commerce and Maritime Dimensions of the American Revolution* (New York, 2007), Christopher Magra used NDAR to show Massachusetts fish merchants' "Loss On Income" during the first year of the Revolutionary War, showing that, as Magra put it, "New England's most commercially viable port realized a nine per cent profit margin from the fishing business" (p. 37–38). Magra further used NDAR to document the Royal Navy's efforts to stop Americans

from importing military stores in 1775, as well as the Americans' responses (p. 173–75). Through the almost exclusive use of NDAR, Magra additionally moved against Raymond G. O'Connor's *Origins of the American Navy* (Lanham, 1994) in showing how fishing vessels were converted to armed vessels "to cruise" on American "sea-coasts for the protection of our trade and the annoyance of our enemies" (p. 183–85). He also used NDAR in *Poseidon's Curse: British Naval Impressment and the Atlantic Origins of the American Revolution* (New York, 2016), enriching our understanding of the abduction of mariners during the American Revolution. Denver Brunsman similarly furthered our understanding of impressment as a practice in *The Evil Necessity: British Naval Impressment in the Eighteenth-Century Atlantic World* (Charlottesville, 2013). Brunsman relied heavily on NDAR to make key historiographical interventions in the field of Atlantic history.

Equally significant, in an article in *Early American Studies*, Nicholas DiPucchio used NDAR to examine Americans' unsuccessful annexation of Bermuda, enriching our understanding of, as he puts it, "Revolutionary Americans' territorial intentions" (p. 63), something he discussed further and in greater detail in his 2022 Ph.D. dissertation. Kylie A. Hulbert's *The Untold War at Sea: America's Revolutionary Privateers* (Athens, Ga., 2022) used NDAR throughout, forcing us to reconsider the role of privateers and privateering during the American Revolution. Indeed, using NDAR, Hulbert used NDAR to show that privateers made invaluable contributions to the securing of American independence on a worldwide stage. They were, Hulbert writes, "an integral part of what made the Revolution global in real time. Their journeys took them far beyond the shores of the colonies into an Atlantic World where allies, commerce, patriotism, identity, and pride all crossed national boundaries," adding, "It is high time we followed them" (p. 12). Last, Benjamin Carp used NDAR in a 2006 article in *Early American Studies* on the 1776 New York City fire to show how, after George Washington evacuated New York, some vengeful Patriot soldiers remained behind and set the city ablaze. NDAR will surely feature in Carp's forthcoming book, *The Great New York Fire of 1776: A Lost Story of the American Revolution* (New Haven, 2023). Other recent studies that have used NDAR include Sarah Kinkel's *Disciplining the Empire: Politics, Governance, and the Rise of the British Navy* (Cambridge, Mass., 2018); Nathan Perl-Rosenthal's *Citizen Sailors: Becoming American in the Age of Revolution* (Cambridge, Mass., 2015); and Thomas Sheppard's *Commanding Petty Despots: The American Navy in the New Republic* (Annapolis, 2022). Books focusing on other aspects of early American history have also made use of NDAR. These include Ricardo A. Herrera's *Feeding Washington's Army: Surviving the Valley Forge Winter of 1778* (Chapel Hill, 2022); Hannah Ferber's *Underwriters of the United States: How Insurance Shaped the American Founding* (Chapel Hill, 2021); Brad Jones's *Resisting Independence: Popular Loyalism in the Revolutionary British Atlantic* (Ithaca, 2021); and Gerald Horne's *The Counter-Revolution of 1776: Slave Resistance and the Origins of the United States of America* (New York, 2014).

The edition is also regularly cited in scholarly journals, including the *California Law Review*, *Journal of the Early Republic*, *Journal of Colonialism and Colonial History*, *Journal of Social History*, *New England Quarterly*, and the *William and Mary Quarterly*. Recent articles focused on British maritime prisoners (T. Cole Jones), Charleston Quakers (Benjamin Carp), the Connecticut state navy (Sheldon S. Cohen), habeas corpus (Amanda L. Tyler), and enslaved ship pilots in the so-called Age of Revolutions (Kevin Dawson).

With its wide coverage, NDAR constitutes one of the most significant and wide-ranging documentary editions that has ever appeared. It is an invaluable resource for understanding not only the naval history of the nation's founding but also the entire conflict. As William M. Fowler Jr. noted in a recent review, "These volumes are an indispensable source for understanding nearly all aspects of the war

that gained independence for the United States," adding, "It is virtually impossible to write about the Revolution without using *NDAR*" (*Journal of Southern History* 73, no. 2 [2007]: 432; https://www.jstor.org/stable/27649411).

With the project's editorial relocation to the CDE and following a sustained period of careful planning, historians, scholars, educators, and the public can look forward to continued publications that appear at regular intervals. As the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States Navy, the Continental Marines, and the United States approaches in 2025 and 2026, respectively, NDAR's reconceptualization and revitalization will stimulate further scholarship and public-facing historical work.

History of the project and productivity: Efforts to publish historical naval documents from the American Revolution began in earnest in 1895 when the Sons of the American Revolution in the State of California issued a call for the federal government to publish documents from conflict in a similar fashion to projects on the Civil War. The California Sons noted, "the necessity for absolute accuracy in that heroic struggle for freedom, as well as justice to those who, in what capacity soever gave their all for the cause of liberty, require that the store of their sacrifices and their patriotism, shall no longer be kept among the inaccessible Archives of government, but that it shall become the official basis for a history of that period, more complete than has yet been written" (vol. 13, p. xi).

Congress did not appropriate funds, but federal records were transferred and organized in the custody of the Office of Library and Naval War Records, a predecessor of NHHC. Records related to the Revolutionary War were stored in Record Group 45 at the National Archives of the United States, and in the 1950s, with the advent of modern documentary editing projects such as the Papers of Thomas Jefferson, the Papers of Benjamin Franklin, and the Adams Papers, Rear Admiral John B. Heffernan moved forward with NDAR plans, forming an advisory committee with the likes of Julian Boyd and Walter Muir Whitehill and appointing special consultants Lyman Butterfield and Leonard Labaree, among others. In 1957 Rear Admiral Ernest M. Eller, USN (Ret.), Heffernan's successor, secured financial support, and William Bell Clark was appointed editor. Clark, a former insurance executive and newspaperman, was a specialist in the period and had himself contributed to Record Group 45. His personal collection was NDAR's foundation, and he and other staff completed a manuscript search and built a vast collection of more than 500,000 manuscript pages.

Clark estimated that NDAR would be completed in fifteen volumes (vol. 1, p. xvii). In 2013, shortly before the publication of volume 12, Michael J. Crawford, the project's most recent editor, estimated that it would take an additional fifteen letterpress volumes to bring the project to completion in twenty-seven volumes. Thirteen have been published to date, bringing the series up to 15 August 1778. A major objective of the planning phase is to develop and conceptualize a digital production schedule that will allow the completion of volumes—and the project—by 2045, taking it up to the final dissolution of the Continental Navy in July 1785. It is estimated that a volume, or major document batches (400+), could be published digitally every twelve to eighteen months or so, beginning in October 2025, after the planning phase and with sustained full-time editorial work, and in time to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the founding of the U.S. Navy and the Continental Marines. (If NDAR continued at its current publication rate—one volume every nine years or so—and in accordance with Crawford's volume estimates, the project would finish in 2150, if editorial work began in 2024.)

The Naval History Division published the first NDAR volume in 1964. It includes a foreword by President John F. Kennedy. Succeeding volumes include forewords by presidents Lyndon B. Johnson (volumes 2 & 3), Richard Nixon (volumes 5 & 6), Gerald Ford (volume 7), Jimmy Carter (volume 8),

Ronald Reagan (volume 9), Bill Clinton (volume 10), George W. Bush (volume 11), and Barack Obama (volume 12). As editor, Clark published a volume roughly every two years, a production rate many editions work toward today. Upon Clark's death in 1968, however, the project entered a period of transition. William James Morgan, who worked with Clark on the first four volumes, became editor. During Morgan's tenure, volumes 5–9 were published between 1970 and 1986. Between 1960 and 1986, a staff of six or more worked principally on NDAR. The project produced nine volumes, averaging a volume every three years. Between 1986 and 2013, however, the staff was whittled down and those remaining were assigned other time-consuming responsibilities. During this period, the project produced three volumes, averaging one every nine years. Between 2013 and 2019, the project had, at most, three staff working on it, none of whom were full-time. No adjustments were made editorially to expedite production.

Important progress was made in other areas. As the series progressed, editorial standards improved to adhere to modern documentary editing standards. Some early volumes were criticized for omitting important sources and misusing others, especially placing an overreliance on inaccurate transcripts. Recent volumes adhere to the standards of the Association for Documentary Editing, and those standards will be maintained or built upon moving forward.

With these challenges, NHHC worked with NHF to ensure NDAR's revitalization and long-term sustainability. NHHC and NHF have partnered with the CDE to resume thoughtful, sustained editorial work that will ensure the series' completion in a timely manner. NHF worked previously with the CDE to prepare NDAR's digital edition. The digital edition of volumes 1–13 was made possible by a gift from Andrew and Barbara Taylor to NHF in November 2017, and matching funds were received through the Maritime Heritage Grant from the District of Columbia Historic Preservation Office and the National Park Service. Perdue Digital Services, LLC, was contracted to digitize and encode the volumes from their original Adobe Acrobat format. In 2018 Perdue Digital Services, LLC, partnered with the CDE to use their Drupal-based publication platform. Staff from both contributed to the work of putting these documents online. Brumfield Labs, LLC, contributed programming work to transform XML files for ingestion to the site. As much as possible, the original appearance and structure of the print volumes were maintained. The editorial method represented in the print volumes was respected and no revisions to the text were made during digitizing. Every effort was made to clean up errors that might result from optical character recognition. Complex documents with tables were presented in Adobe Acrobat format to preserve the original presentation and alignment of numbers and columns. Front matter and appendices were also presented as Adobe Acrobat documents in the supplementary material. Abbreviations in the text and accompanying source notes are explained in the volume front matter. Volume indexes were not included but any user is well served with full-text search, search by date, author, recipient, volume, and series headings. Efforts have been made to create a single names list but that work is still in progress. (Therefore searches on author and recipient from the pull-down menu may not be exhaustive and need to be supplemented with a full-text search.) Given that all the documents that appeared in the first thirteen volumes are readily available in the CDE's Drupal-based publication platform, the CDE is well-prepared to transform the digital edition (https://ndar-history.org/) into an active resource that is constantly developing and expanding.

The current relationship between the NHF and CDE developed in the spring of 2022. At the NHF's invitation, CDE staff Jennifer Stertzer and Christopher Minty visited NHF and NHHC in April 2022 to assess NDAR's corpus in Washington Navy Yard and discuss the possibility of taking full editorial and administrative control of NDAR. Stertzer and Minty examined NDAR's materials to

determine how the CDE can move forward with the project expeditiously without compromising editorial standards. They examined hundreds of microfilm reels and a significant amount of paper-based files, including the project's control file. Due to the project's significance and potential impact, it was determined that the CDE would assume control of the project. Minty visited the project again to image the microfilm collection and portions of the project's control file and meet with the NHF. The CDE is also exploring securing additional collaborative partners, including the U.S. Naval Academy (see the Appendices). The NHF is currently in talks with the U.S. Naval Institute regarding a merger that would take place before the end of 2022. Both have offered letters of institutional support to ensure NDAR's success and stability (see the Appendices).[2] NHHC, where the NDAR microfilm collection is stored, will provide access to the collection but will have no additional involvement.

NDAR is, then, in a unique position. A well-established project, its transition to the CDE requires considerable planning to ensure its short- and long-term success. Indeed, NEH support will advance the project as the CDE reevaluates and reassesses how NDAR's documents are editorially handled. All editorial policies will be reviewed and the project's corpus of documents—primarily a microfilm collection—will be examined to determine what sources are freely available online or elsewhere. NDAR will also take full advantage of the CDE's resources as it evaluates what is most appropriate for its online dissemination and helps the project contribute to a sustainable digital publishing ecosystem. The CDE has a proven track record of publishing materials in a timely fashion. A major goal it has for NDAR is to expedite its publication rate while maintaining or building upon its editorial quality. By improving NDAR's output, the CDE also hopes that, in turn, it will promote increased awareness and usage of the project by various audiences.

The CDE is also preparing additional applications for funding from other sources, including the National Historical Records and Publications Commission, the Florence Gould Foundation, the Daughters of the American Revolution, the National Park Service, and others. The CDE hopes to attract private donors for NDAR, as well. It is anticipated that NDAR will apply for a three-year Scholarly Editions and Translations Grant in 2023 to support editorial work on the project.

Collaborators: NDAR will have two part-time editors, a project developer, a project advisor, and two student editors from the University of Virginia during the grant period. Managing editor and project director Minty will commit 38% of his time to the project, Cavanaugh will commit 5% of her time, and Winkler will commit up to 10 hours per week to the project. Stertzer, as project advisor and director of the CDE, will assist Minty with developing collaborations and participate in meetings regarding the project's scope and reconceptualization. Student workers from the University of Virginia will work up to ten hours per week. NDAR will be based at the CDE. NHF/U.S. Naval Institute will provide intellectual and subject expertise, as well as support increased outreach and engagement efforts. NHHC will provide access to the microfilm collection that is stored at its offices and discuss with the CDE the possible relocation of the collection to the CDE. An advisory board will be established during the grant period.

      Managing Editor and Project Director: Christopher F. Minty is an editor at the CDE. He holds a Ph.D. in history from the University of Stirling, Scotland, and specializes in the history of the American Revolution. He is the author of *Unfriendly to Liberty: Loyalist Networks and the Coming of the American Revolution in New York City* (Ithaca, 2023) and various articles. He previously served as Assistant Editor

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[2] Founded in 1873, the U.S. Naval Institute is a 501(c)(3) organization. It is an independent, professional military association and is not legally part of the U.S. Department of the Navy. For more information, see https://www.usni.org/about-us/history.

of The Adams Papers Editorial Project at the Massachusetts Historical Society (2015–2020) and Managing Editor of The John Dickinson Writings Project (2020–2022). Pending future funding from the NEH and other sources, he will transition into full-time work on NDAR (40 hours p/w) from 2024.

Associate Editor: David Winkler is a historian at NHF. A specialist in naval history, he has published several historical context studies for the Department of Defense that examine the U.S. military infrastructure and has contributed articles to leading naval magazines and journals. He holds a bachelor's degree in political science from The Pennsylvania State University, a master's degree in international affairs from Washington University in St. Louis, and a Ph.D. in history from American University. A surface warfare officer and Naval War College graduate, Winkler served on active duty for ten years and retired as a Commander from the Naval Reserve in 2008. During the grant period, Winkler will offer intellectual expertise and guide and support Minty's work as NDAR's mission and editorial policies are assessed and redeveloped. Winkler will also participate in team meetings with Minty and Stertzer to discuss collaborations and support outreach and engagement to broaden NDAR's reach in scholarly and public communities. Winkler's position is supported by the Naval Historical Foundation. It is estimated that Winkler will devote up to ten hours per week to the NDAR project.

Project Developer: Erica Cavanaugh is the CDE's project developer and a research editor at The Washington Papers. She has assisted with all aspects of technical and editorial work on the digital editions of the Washington Papers, including the Papers of George Washington Digital Edition and the George Washington Financial Papers Project. She is also responsible for the development of several Drupal-based content management systems, ranging from complex editorial production and publication platforms to exhibit-focused projects concentrated on metadata collection, searchability, and display. She also has experience working with XML, CSS, HTML, PHP, and JavaScript.

Project Advisor: Jennifer Stertzer is the director of the CDE and The Washington Papers. With the Papers of George Washington since 2000, Stertzer has served as project manager of the Papers of George Washington Digital Edition, overseeing the conversion of legacy print volumes into a digital edition, developed Word-to-XML workflows, and is editor of the Papers of George Washington Financial Papers project. At the CDE, Stertzer consults on project conceptualization, technical solutions, workflow, editorial methodologies, and engagement strategies. She teaches Conceptualising and Creating Digital Editions at the University of Victoria's Digital Humanities Summer Institute, serves on the faculty of the Institute for the Editing of Historical Documents, and is past president of the Association for Documentary Editing. During the grant period, Stertzer will assist Minty with identifying and developing collaborations as well as participate in meetings regarding the project's scope and reconceptualization as a digital edition. Stertzer also administers all CDE grants and oversees all CDE projects. Stertzer's position is supported by the University of Virginia.

Student workers: *to be determined*. University of Virginia students will be hired to complete essential cataloging work on the project as well as transcription and annotation research. Working in Drupal, they will also complete work on the single names list for NDAR's first thirteen volumes. All work that is completed by students, whether undergraduate or graduate, will be checked by more senior editors. It is anticipated that students will comprise an integral part of the project as it progresses.

Advisory Board: During the grant period, Minty, Winkler, and Stertzer will build an advisory board that will be comprised of specialists in early American naval history, documentary editors, and other historians. We will also invite former editors to join. The board will meet as a body, either in person or virtually, to discuss editorial policies and progress, as well as project finances.

Methods and execution: The microfilm collection, built during William Bell Clark's tenure as editor, represents the project's core. Comprising over 500,000 manuscript pages from public and private repositories across the United States and Europe, NDAR has used these materials to publish thirteen volumes. This collection will maintain its position as the main corpus of materials, and it will be digitally supplemented during the planning phase.

Control: NDAR's original database—its control file—is paper-based, three-by-five slips. These were created and divided into five categories: (1.) ships' listings; (2.) documents listed by chronological date; (3.) blue slips that detail repository and occasionally collection information; (4.) alphabetical by the addressee; and (5.) alphabetical by the originator of the document. This system, which is somewhat repetitive, has remained the project's primary control file. Although Bell headed a robust search for documents and another survey was completed in the 1980s, it is probable that another search should be completed to ensure the project is using the most appropriate documents for publication. The control file, however, has not been rigorously maintained, and it does not contain every document within NDAR's corpus. During the one-year planning period, the CDE plans to transition the project entirely to Drupal and complete an additional document search. The CDE hosts and maintains the project's digital edition on its server. The website was developed using Drupal, a highly configurable, open-source content management system and publication platform that the CDE has used successfully with comparable projects, including the George Washington Financial Papers Project and the Papers of Martin Van Buren. During the planning period, NDAR's microfilm collection will be cataloged. NDAR editors will also determine what parts of the collection are now available online.

Selection: To date, NDAR has printed documents that provide full coverage of naval aspects of the American Revolution and present readers with a meaningful overview of the entire sea effort. As volume 6 noted, "documentation bearing on the regular naval forces on both sides, state navies, privateers, merchant shipping, logistics of the conflict, and operations on sea, lake, bay and river fall within the context of 'naval document' as used in this series" (p. xi). It has been the editors' goal to publish documents that "are necessary for a comprehensive understanding of the war at sea," enabling them to "provide full coverage of naval aspects of the armed struggle" (vol. 13, p. xix). This selection policy is somewhat vague. Moving forward, a more objective policy is required and it will be established during the grant period. Editors will consider the repetition of information, source type(s), the significance of correspondents, the rarity of material(s), and the overall context of the document within the project. They will also consider whether documents are accessible via digital collections or resources, or published in other openly accessible documentary editions. The project director will make final determinations. It is anticipated that NDAR will publish between 50 and 60 percent of available documents for each volume, or "batch." For instance, if 500 documents are available for any given batch, between 250 and 300 documents will be published. Documents that are not published will be calendared, providing readers with the appropriate information so they can locate documents.

Transcriptions: Transcriptions adhere as closely as possible to the originals in spelling, capitalization, punctuation, and abbreviations, with minimal editorial intervention, including the retention of dashes and underlinings found in the original text. There are, however, a few exceptions: ship names are italicized; complimentary closes are appended to the final paragraph of text, regardless of where they appear; and words and passages that were crossed out by the author are transcribed either as strikethroughs or in notes. Additionally, when spelling is so unusual it's misleading, the correct spelling immediately follows in square brackets and italicized type, or is more fully discussed in a note. The "per" symbol is retained and the thorn is represented by the letter "*y*." Tildes are replaced by the appropriate

letter. Editors also silently supply letters and words in brackets that are missing from damaged manuscripts but are obvious from the context. Foreign language documents will be followed by an English translation. The CDE plans to make first-pass transcriptions available before documents are published in the digital edition.

Annotation, taxonomies, and metadata: Through the publication of volume 13, NDAR's annotation policy was designed to assist readers in understanding the documents and was largely guided by common sense. Editors did not seek to be the repository of all information on eighteenth-century naval history. Individuals, events, books and writings, and quotations were identified. Indexes were also used to provide access to the materials. As the project shifts to a digital edition, annotations and indexing methods will be supplemented with or replaced by rich bibliographic metadata and descriptive taxonomies.

We will capture author/recipient, dates, titles, document types, repositories, locations, subjects and tags, names mentioned, organizations mentioned, ships mentioned, places mentioned, events mentioned, and related documents and enclosures. We will provide correct and full spellings of names, offer necessary biographical information, and distinguish people with similar or identical names.

An advantage of working in a digital environment is that annotations can serve multiple purposes and not all documents will require the same levels of editorial intervention. Descriptive taxonomies, moreover, will serve as an expanded version of a traditional index, offering users greater accessibility options

These digital tools will expedite production. For example, although there will be some documents that require specific, "item-level" annotation, others can be reused (e.g., identifications for people and organizations, event descriptions, and so on). Rich, structured bibliographic metadata, then, will be key to the functionality of NDAR. It will serve as a primary means through which audiences will discover, navigate, cite, and share the materials they access and use.

We also intend to use controlled vocabularies, such as the *Library of Congress Subject Headings*, *GeoNames*, and the *Virtual International Authority File*, among others, to ensure our data is standardized and organized. Using controlled vocabularies will allow NDAR to be interoperable, or federated, with other CDE projects, where appropriate, and facilitate the development of ontologies for sharing data on the semantic web. CDE editors will work during the planning phase to ensure these editorial evolutions are ready to be implemented.

Digital technology: As the project shifts to an entirely digital edition, the CDE is an ideal location for NDAR. The CDE's interest in a platform that can be used to support the major workflow components of creating digital publication outputs began in 2014 while working on George Washington's financial documents.[3] The primary outcome of that enterprise was a Drupal platform that facilitated the editorial process, publication, and data exports. Project methodologies may vary, but components do not—transcription, annotation, and so on. Since then, the CDE has built and developed various project-specific, Drupal-based content/editorial/publication management systems, all of which contain a degree of customization yet maintain shared technical infrastructures and data models. The CDE has used that experience to begin developing a ready-made platform for editing and publishing historical documents, known as the University of Virginia Digital Publishing Cooperative (UVA-DPC). By working in the UVA-DPC model, NDAR will be able to contribute to shared authority systems and metadata standards. It will also enable the CDE to develop a federated platform related to the Revolutionary War.

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[3] For more information about early project development and technical considerations, see https://www.digitalstudies.org/articles/10.16995/dscn.57/.

All data published to the site are routinely backed up in enterprise storage, which is maintained by the University of Virginia's Information Technology Services. This enterprise storage is high-performance storage with disaster recovery capacity. The project will also store archived files of all collected and compiled data on commercial cloud servers. Additionally, the CDE is working with LibraData, the University of Virginia's scholarly institutional repository, to create an accessible, online archive of all datasets, documentation, and research generated by editorial projects. This will ensure long-term discoverability and intellectual accessibility of all project-generated materials, including NDAR. The project will deposit all official materials to ensure long-term access, preservations, and discoverability (e.g., grant proposals, white papers, project directives and guides, board meeting minutes, .csv files).

Work plan: Given that we are applying for a one-year planning grant, NEH support will enable the CDE, most broadly, to reconceptualize and reimagine NDAR as a digital documentary edition that publishes documents at a stable rate while maintaining high levels of editorial excellence. NDAR is not a born-digital edition, but it will be an edition reborn in a digital environment. It is the CDE's goal that NDAR will publish materials regularly, and throughout the planning period, editors will determine how they will make NDAR's production schedule more efficient, in accordance with modern digital documentary editing standards.

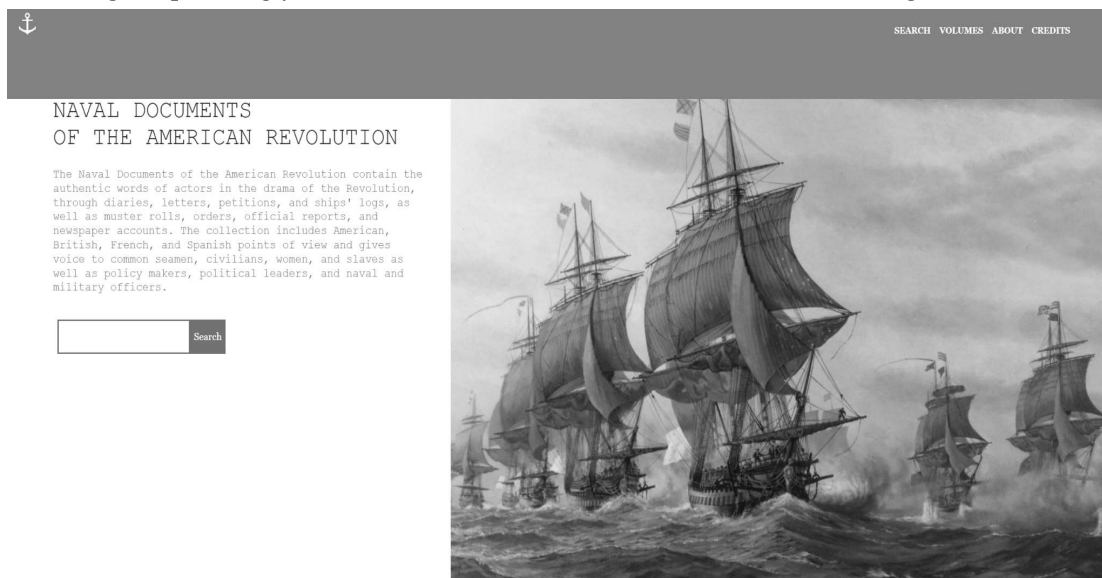The broad goals for NDAR during this one-year planning period include:

- Catalog NDAR's microfilm collection and locate microfilmed documents that are now available online;
- Reassess and redevelop the project's editorial policies to suit digital workflows;
- Redesign the project logo, colors, typeface/font combinations, etc.;
- Secure additional institutional collaborators;
- Analyze the collection and canvass repositories for additional documents;
- Form an editorial board;
- Set up a project blog and host one virtual event;
- Participate in a listening tour with comparable and adjacent projects, organizations, and institutions; and
- Prepare the project's digital publishing system and control file.

NEH support will advance the project as it will be used to pay portions of Minty's and Cavanaugh's salaries and student workers. (Stertzer and Winkler require no funds.) NEH funds will be invaluable as NDAR transitions to a digital edition that is based at a new institution.

Final product and dissemination: The first thirteen volumes of NDAR were published by NHHC and its predecessor as part of the Department of the Navy. (Future documents will not be published as part of the Department of the Navy.) These volumes were reviewed in scholarly journals, including the *American Historical Review*, *Journal of American History*, *William and Mary Quarterly*, and others, as well as newspapers such as *The New York Times*. Editors regularly delivered presentations at academic conferences and in public-facing historical venues. These volumes have also been published online as an open-access digital edition (https://www.ndar-history.org/) and are freely available in PDF form.

Public-facing outreach will continue as the project moves forward. The CDE plans to work with its collaborators to host in-person and virtual events at NHF/U.S. Naval Institute, the U.S. Naval

Academy, and Naval War College, as well as in the UVA community, including lectures, seminars, workshops, and conferences. A blog will also be established and regular posts about NDAR will be circulated. During the planning year, the CDE aims to hold a virtual event announcing NDAR's revival.

Moving forward, NDAR will be published as a digital edition and its documents will look similar to the John Barry to Robert Morris, 9 May 1776, document that is above, with some design improvements (see also Sample Document). As NDAR moves toward the end of the 1770s and the Revolutionary War develops, scholars and users can look forward to materials documenting the early stages and development of the Franco-American alliance, with correspondence focused on allied attempts to capture Newport, R.I., and concerns about possible British expeditions in New York. Washington's willingness to convey naval intelligence to Comte d'Estaing, for example, will provide key insights into Washington's diplomatic skills, as well as his naval intelligence, and during a six-week period, Washington wrote d'Estaing seventeen times. D'Estaing, on the other hand, wrote Washington twelve times. Although neither was particularly happy with the other, they did not show it. Instead, they encouraged one another and in so doing bolstered the Franco-American reliance. As Washington wrote on 27 October 1778, "I cannot but ardently desire, that an opportunity may speedily be offered you of again exerting that spirit of well-directed activity and enterprise, of which you have already given proofs so formidable to our

ennemies, and so beneficial to the common cause." Documents will also detail how Continental frigates *Warren*, *Ranger*, and *Queen of France* captured several British ships on the Atlantic; a May 1779 British raid on Virginia, designed by Gen. Henry Clinton and Commo. George Collier, in an attempt to disrupt the tobacco trade and troop reinforcements; and an expedition up the Hudson River toward King's Ferry and West Point, N.Y. Further off, NDAR will engage with additional European navies—including, for instance, a British blockade off Brest, France, which disrupted key French reinforcements—along with Benedict Arnold's treachery and increased operations in the south and the Caribbean, such as key battles and engagements like the Battle of Cape Henry (16 March 1781) and the Battle of the Chesapeake (5 September 1781), along with the Battle of Martinique (17 April 1780) and the Battle of the Saintes (9–12 April 1782). Moreover, significant naval figures such as the Comte de Grasse, George Rodney, Willem Krul, and Luis de Córdova y Córdova, among others, will feature prominently in future documents. So, too, will seamen; ship captains; American, British, Dutch, French, and Spanish naval and military figures; and "ordinary" Americans, enslaved and free. The long-expected French expeditionary force, totalling seven ships of the line and 5,000 troops in four regiments that were dispatched by Louis XVI and arrived off Newport, R.I., on 11 July 1780, will also be well covered. The CDE plans to make first-pass transcriptions available before documents are published in the digital edition. Additionally, the CDE's work on UVA-DPC will allow NDAR to contribute to shared authority systems and metadata standards, which, in turn, will allow the CDE to develop a federated platform related to the Revolutionary War that could involve similar projects, collections, and resources.

Outside of editorial work, NDAR editors will make themselves available to read and comment on work on the naval history of the American Revolution. Editors will also supply rough transcriptions of documents, answer reference questions, verify citations, and serve as period experts when necessary. By transitioning to a digital edition, it is hoped and expected the NDAR staff will increase awareness of invaluable materials that will promote our understanding of the American Revolution. As President John F. Kennedy wrote in the foreword to volume 1, "these volumes make amply clear the critical role played by sea power in the achievement of American independence." With 2025 and 2026 approaching, now is the time to revitalize the project.