**PILOT GRANTS 2017/18**

**Application deadline 30 June 2017**

**Applications should be e-mailed to: jrri@manchester.ac.uk**

**Overview**

The John Rylands Research Institute was established in 2013 as a unique partnership between The University of Manchester Library and the University’s Faculty of Humanities. The Institute promotes research activities linked to our world-leading Special Collections by working with library professionals and academic scholars.

The University of Manchester’s Special Collections contain more than 50 languages, and are written on virtually every medium - from papyrus to pixels. We hold some of the most significant printed books and manuscripts ever produced alongside unique archive collections, maps and visual material documenting a wealth of cultural, literary, historical, political and religious traditions from around the world. Though these collections are breathtaking in their importance and their range, they have been little explored. This provides a huge potential for new and important research of the highest quality, learning at all levels and extensive and wide-reaching public engagement collections-based research.

**Pilot Grants**

Pilot grants are available to academic and Library staff at The University of Manchester who wish to conduct initial and exploratory research into the Special Collections at The University of Manchester Library in preparation for a larger, externally funded grant bid that would be held at the University of Manchester.

Grants of up to £5,000 are available to and cover any activities directly linked to the type of research and grant preparation described above. Possible uses of pilot grants include employing a research assistant and supporting teaching buyouts. Please ask the JRRI office if you are unsure about the eligibility of other forms of expense, and contact your own research or administrative office for any help you need calculating costings. Applications for pilot grants can be made by individuals or groups.

All applications are assessed by the Institute Directors in consultation with curators and academics with relevant expertise. The successful applicant will receive support from the Institute/School Grant Writer to apply for the follow-on funding based on the research supported by the pilot grant, which must be submitted to a grant awarding body by an agreed date.

Pre-application advice is available from the Director of the JRRI, Hannah Barker (hannah.barker@manchester.ac.uk) or the JRRI grant writer, Chloe Jeffries (chloe.jeffries@manchester.ac.uk). Advice on the UML Special Collections can also be directed to either of the joint Heads of Special Collections: Stella Halkyard (stella.halkyard@manchester.ac.uk or John Hodgson (john.hodgson@manchester.ac.uk).

**Application Process**

Application forms are available at: http://www.jrri.manchester.ac.uk/opportunities/pilot

The completed application form should include:

* The names and affiliation of the application team with contact details for the lead applicant.
* A short summary of the relevant experience of each person involved (approx. 500 words).
* Details of the intended project to include: title, start and end dates, objectives, methodology, outputs and pilot project costs.
* An outline of the sources from the UML Special Collections to be consulted.
* Future plans for the research project which must include grant capture.
* Brief up to date curriculum vitae and list of relevant publications (max. 2 pages each).
* Applications and queries should be e-mailed to: jrri@manchester.ac.uk

**What will the applicant receive?**

* A maximum of £5,000 will be awarded per application.
* Support from expert curators, conservators and imaging specialists.
* Support from the Institute grant writer.

**What will the Institute expect from the applicant?**

* All awarded Pilot Grant funding must be spent before 30 June 2018and claim forms must also be submitted to the grant holder’s research or administrative office by this date.The processing of expenses or payments related to the award must be done by the grant holder’s research or administrative office.
* All grant holders must produce a report at the end of their project.
* All grant holders must submit an application for follow-on funding based on the research supported by the pilot grant to an external grant awarding body by an agreed date.