

Memorandum of Understanding

Between

La Bibliothèque nationale de France

And

The National Archives and Records Administration

WHEREAS, the United States and France have a long history of mutual regard and friendship, dating back to France's status as the first country to recognize the young United States after the American Revolution; and

WHEREAS, the United States National Archives and Records Administration and the Bibliothèque nationale de France each has a substantial collection of materials reflecting the rich historical and cultural connections between France and the United States, as well as materials documenting and celebrating French-American life;

NOW THEREFORE:

FIRST, Bibliothèque nationale de France intends to set up a digital library dedicated to the French presence in Northern America between the 16th and the 19th century, Northern America being meant as today's United States of America and Canada and the Louisiana Purchase being considered as a natural end.

SECOND, the National Archives and the Bibliothèque nationale de France will cooperate to collect, preserve, and provide access to the rich culture heritage of France and French-Americans.

THIRD, the National Archives' holdings contain invaluable items which bear witness to the French presence in Northern America.

FOURTH, as resources permit, the National Archives will select and make available high-quality digital scans of relevant collections materials for use by the Bibliothèque nationale de France in the digital library.

FIFTH, as resources permit, the National Archives and the Bibliothèque nationale de France may exchange information concerning their operations, including digitization, collection development and management, research and reference services, preservation, cataloguing, and training, to encourage the greatest accessibility of the material selected and made available by the National Archives.

SIXTH, the National Archives and the Bibliothèque nationale de France will each establish a point of contact to accomplish the goals of this Memorandum of Understanding.

Each party shall bear its own expenses, and all activities are subject to availability of resources.

Agreed, this 23rd day of April, 2018



Laurence Engel

President
Bibliothèque nationale de France



David Ferriero

Archivist of the United States
The National Archives and
Records Administration