Grants for Your Education: The How-To’s of Grants Research

Ellen Jacks
Grants Information Collection
Memorial Library
grantsinfo@library.wisc.edu
608-262-6431
Today’s Program

- Overview of the Grants Information Collection
- The Basics
- Creating a Personal Funding Plan
  - Articulate your “Plan of Study”
  - Special Circumstances and Affiliations
- Identify Potential Funding Sources
  - Where to look
  - Hints for searching
- Database Demos & Hands-On
  - Foundation Grants to Individuals
  - COS Pivot
Book Collection
Grants Information Collection

- Funding Information Network partner of the Foundation Center
- Library Collection (not a research service)
- Memorial Library Room 262 D/E
- Open all library hours
- Our web site: http://grants.library.wisc.edu
- Print & Online Resources
What IS a grant?

- An award for which there is no expectation of repayment or services to be performed
- A Gift of money (or something worth money) to be used for “charitable purposes.”

Types of Grants
- Fellowships
- Scholarships
- Travel
- Research
- Etc.

Note: Not all grantmakers read/follow the official definition of “grant types.”
Most important is: does a specific grantmaker allow you to use the money as you need?
Who Gives Grants?

- **Educational Institutions**
  - UW–Madison, UW–System...

- **Foundations**
  - Private, community, corporate

- **Businesses**

- **U.S. Government–sponsored**
  - Federal, state, local

- **Associations & Societies**
  - Rotary Club, Wilson Ornithological Society...
Articulate Your Plan of Study/Research

- What is your major area of study or research?
- Will you study part-time? Full-time? For how long?
- Where do you plan to study? Do you need to travel to conduct your graduate research?
- When will you need the funding?
- How does your plan or project fit into your overall goals?
Special Circumstances & Affiliations

- Geographic location
- Subject/academic discipline
- Special interests, talents, accomplishments
- Demographic characteristics
  - Gender, citizenship, ethnicity, race, single parent, returning student...
- School
- Employer
- Union
- Professional & trade associations
- Religious affiliations
- Community & civic organizations & clubs
- Military
Is Sponsorship an Option?

- Most grant makers give to nonprofits.
- Research or projects are sometimes eligible – speak to your department or the office of Research and Sponsored Programs http://www.rsp.wisc.edu/
- If you can get a “fiscal sponsor” or “institutional affiliation” you may be eligible for many more funding opportunities.
- Through the University, this is mainly an option for Graduate-level +
Research: Common Interests

What they SAY versus what they DO!

- Who has an interest in your area of interest?
- Who funds in your geographic area?
  - Where you’re from
  - Where the activity will take place
- Who will provide the TYPE of support you need?
  - Individual vs. Organizational
  - Research, Travel, Study Abroad, Tuition, etc.
- Who has given in the dollar range you need?
Where Should You Research?

- Fill out the FAFSA (Federal Student Aid) if you haven’t already
- Check with your school and/or department for institution-specific grants
  - Undergrads: [http://scholarships.wisc.edu/Scholarships/](http://scholarships.wisc.edu/Scholarships/)
- Print resources
- Online databases & directories
By the book...

Take a minute to page through your book.

- What is its purpose?
- What kind of information does it contain?
- How is it organized?
- Are there indexes? If so, what do they cover?
- Would you find it useful? Why?
General Tips

- Have a firm funding plan
- Research grantmakers to match your profile to their interests
- Are you eligible?
- Follow their guidelines
- Consider pre-proposal contact
- Complete the application in full
- Follow-up with your prospects
- Allow plenty of time!

Red Handout: Tips for the application process
Databases and Search Sites

- **COS Pivot** (previously Community of Science)
- **SPIN**
- **Grant Forward** (previously IRIS)
- **Foundation Grants to Individuals** (Memorial Library only)
- **RSP Funding for Graduate Students**
- **RSP Funding for Undergraduate Students**
- Some free internet based databases—especially for undergrads

Salmon Handout: Databases for your Education
Thank you!

Questions & Discussion

Remember, searching for grants takes time. You can always contact me for more guidance or an appointment.