Understanding the Diverse Grant-seeking Needs of Our Faculty

How can the Library collaborate with stakeholders to insure faculty have access to the necessary tools and resources to find funding for their research, programmatic efforts and creative endeavors?

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Stakeholders & Needs

Interview Themes

1. More Competition and Less Money
2. Collaboration and Interdisciplinary Research is More Common but Harder to Manage
3. Professional Networks are Key to Success
4. Support on Campus is Not Consistent
5. Grants are Integral to the Research Process

Key Relationships on Campus

Virtually every campus has a variety of key players in the grant-seeking business. Librarians should develop and nurture relationships with these individuals and offices.

Faculty

Increasingly, faculty are required to have a history of successful external grant-getting to be considered for a tenure-track position. Additionally, many institutions (and many schools and colleges within large research based universities) require external funding in order to have successful tenure and promotion outcomes. This, along with the need to fund research, is strong motivation for faculty to become knowledgeable about the grant-seeking process.

Post-doctoral Fellows

Post-doctoral fellows are often funded through federal or foundation grant support. These grant funds sometimes go directly to the fellow, but are most often funneled through departments within the host university. Many graduate students begin looking for postdocs in their fifth year of their doctoral program.

Graduate Students

Graduate student funding needs include tuition support, research funding for dissertations, and travel funding to attend and present at professional conferences. Professional organizations, host institutions, and foundations are very good sources of funding for graduate students as well.

Undergraduate Students

Scholarship funding is of growing importance for many students, as tuition rises much faster than the overall cost of living. Increasingly, research initiatives on campuses include undergraduates as part of a comprehensive college education.

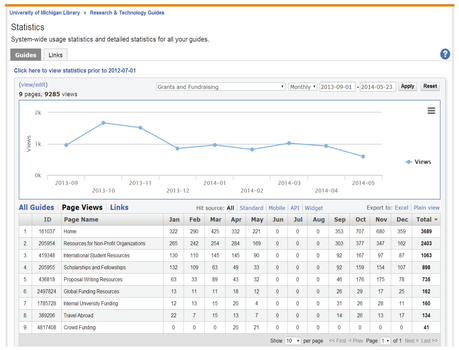
Administration & Programmatic Staff

Many campuses run directed field experiences, practical engagement programs, service learning programs, and other community-based programs that engage in collaborations outside the university. Grantmakers are particularly interested in such programs, as they extend the reach of traditional single-institution grants, and often have greater impact. Program coordinators are usually concentrated in student services, academic services, and schools such as public health, social work, I-schools, education, and others.

Assessment of Services

Use of Research Guide

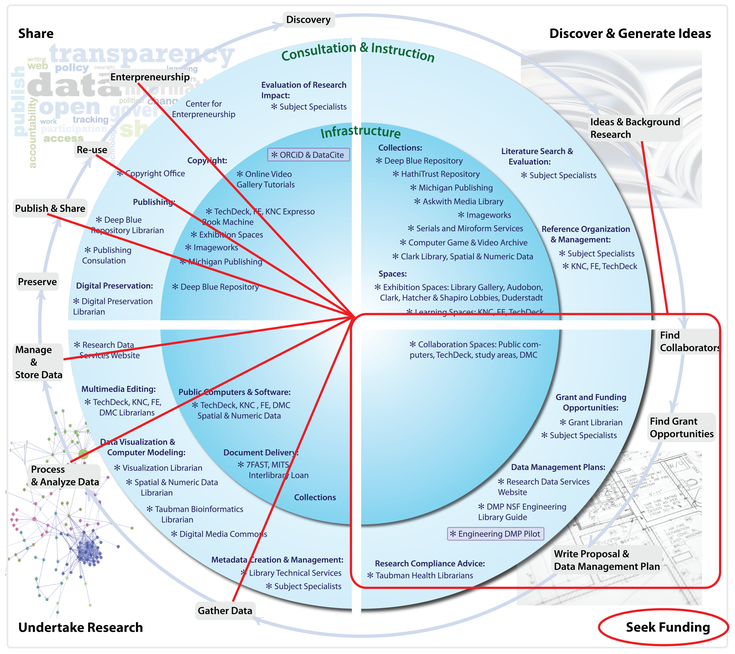
The Grants and Fundraising Guide is one of the most highly used guides in the U-M Library collection. Between September 1, 2013 and May 23, 2014, the guide has received over 9,285 hits.



Graduate Student & Faculty Registrants for Open Grants Classes Sept-Nov 2013

Discipline	No. of Registrants
Health Sciences	57
Science & Engineering	79
Arts & Humanities	91
Social Sciences	163
Business	8
International	11
Community Users	62
TOTAL	**471**

Grant-seeking and the Research Lifecycle



Adapted from: "Research Data Services at the University of Michigan Library" CyberInfrastructure Days Poster. 2013. CC BY 4.0. Sferdean, Li York, Green. Source: http://deepblue.lib.umich.edu/handle/2027.42/101738

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Resources We Offer

Pivot

Pivot is a directory of researchers and research funding opportunities that combines two comprehensive, editorially maintained databases: the Pivot Funding Opportunities database of over 400,000 funding opportunities worth an estimated $33 billion, and the Pivot Scholar Universe database of 3 million profiles of scholars worldwide. Its proprietary algorithm compiles pre-populated researcher profiles unique to an organization (such as University of Michigan) and matches them to relevant current funding opportunities. This allows U-M users to search for a funding opportunity and instantly view matching faculty from inside or outside U-M. Conversely, a search for a given scholar will link to matching funding opportunities.

Foundation Directory Online

Profiles over 105,000 U.S.-based foundations and public charities, describing programs, areas of funding, types of support, geographic emphasis, trustees & officers, application process, deadlines, high, low & average grants, and lists of recent grants made. Also provides access to recent tax returns for private foundations as submitted to the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (Form 990-PF's). Updated biweekly.

Foundation Center Website

foundationcenter.org
A freely available website that has tutorials for proposal writing, proposal budgeting, approaching foundations, etc., a catalog of thousands of content rich reports on every topic, sample proposal documents, access to the Philanthropy News Digest, and more.

Grants LibGuide & Workshops

http://guides.lib.umich.edu/grants
Curated by Karen Downing, Foundation & Grants Librarian at the University of Michigan. The guide brings together both licensed and non-licensed resources in one place. The following librarians offer regular workshops to faculty, graduate students, and staff regarding training on funding databases and techniques. Workshops are also offered to area nonprofits.

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