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Academic Libraries 2014: Understanding the Diverse Grant-seeking Needs of Our Faculty

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Faculty Interview Protocol

1. Tell us a little about your history with respect to grant-seeking and grant-getting activities.
   - How has your approach to securing funding changed over your career?

2. In your research process, when and how do you focus on grant-seeking needs?
   - Is it one of the first “steps” in your research process?
   - Is it something you do throughout the process?

3. How do you find out about grant opportunities?
   - Did you use any of the funding databases in your search or approach?
     - Do you have an account in any of the funding databases?

4. What University resources (people, tools or funding) have you used in the process of grants-seeking/grant-getting?
   - Where did you start looking?
   - Who did you reach out to to receive training/info?
   - How did you end up applying that knowledge in your search/find process?
   - What is your perception of how well the University supports your grant-funded research?
   - If money was no object, what types of support would be most helpful/useful to you in order to bring in external funding?

5. How do you perceive the grants landscape in your field/discipline?
   - Is it changing? If so, how?
   - Is it stable?
   - Have the major foundation/federal funders in your field changed priorities recently?

6. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your grant-seeking process or funding needs?

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** - <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.

**Graduate Student and Faculty Registrants for Open Grants Classes: Sept-Nov 2013**

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Research Lifecycle with Grant Process Highlighted

The research lifecycle at the University of Michigan, as supported by the University of Michigan Library.

<table>
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<th>Health Sci</th>
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<th>Arts/Hum</th>
<th>Soc Sci</th>
<th>Business</th>
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<th>Community Users</th>
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TOTAL number of registrants: 471

Graph adapted from “Research Data Services at the University of Michigan Library” CyberInfrastructure Days poster (2013). © Sferdean, Li, York, Green.