

Surfing the Internet for Granting Sources

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The Internet holds much promise for the future for those seeking funding opportunities for grants. At the present time, one can search free search engines which search multiple search engines, i.e. Savvy Search, or single search engines such as InfoSeek for key words. Or one can go to the sites they are already familiar with, such as the home pages of the National Institutes of Health or the National Endowment for the Humanities at known sites like FEDIX, SPIN, or IRIS. Or they can search by keyword and find specific sites to investigate. Or they can subscribe to services - some of which are free, which offer any number of means to match the requestor up with what is available, such as Community of Science. Through these services one can sign up for notification of information to come to them based on a profile they generated themselves. Or they can search grant databases through online services such as DIALOG for opportunities in their fields. Other services and sites are becoming available every day.

Add these opportunities to the new developments which will permit the electronic submission of grants and the eager researcher can see that the future is wide open! In-depth coverage of such a large, growing and exiting area is not possible in the space of this paper. We condensed the information into a summary of the major opportunities, including the current URLs when possible.

A literature search in the databases covering education and library science for research opportunities on the internet yielded little at this time, though Fehrman's "Internet Resources for Psychology" (1) and other references were found. In general they offered an awareness of the availability of the internet for granting sources, but relatively little has been published about it yet.

MULTIPLE SEARCH ENGINES

Savvy Search (<http://wagner.cs.colostate.edu:1969/>) is an example of an internet search engine which searches nineteen search engines simultaneously. Among the engines searched are: Web Crawler, Inktomi, Lycos, Aliweb, Excite, InfoSeek, Yellow Pages, DejaNews,



Pathfinder, Yahoo, FTPSearch95, NlightN, Galaxy, Opentext, AltaVista, and the Internet Movie Database. Results of a search on "research grants" yielded results which ranged from 100% hits with references to sites like NIH Research grants, FAA Research Grants Program, Small Business Innovation Research Grants, to databases which only included indexing of replies to listserves.

Savvy Search searches all the above search engine at one time but displays the results individually by search engine. The last option after each result is to go to that site. Web Crawler and Inktomi gave the best results to a search on "research grants." The next step would be to go to Inktomi and redo the search with more pertinent words: "+research +grants +engineering" for example. (The plus (+) preceding each word tells this search engine to only pull documents which have all three words in them.)

Also a search on an in-depth search engine such as AltaVista (<http://www.altavista.com>) for "research grants" brings up such results as "Internet Resources for Sociology" (2).

Sites which offer a collection of search engines which you can select from and search one at a time include Microsoft's SEARCH (<http://www.search.com>) and HAL PC Major Search Engines (<http://hal-pc.org/engines.html>) with sixteen engines listed.

GREAT SITES

Recently the Chronicle of Higher Education(3), suggested the following sites:

Community of Science (<http://cos.gdb.org/>)

An excellent example of a one-shop stop. COS lists over 40,000 scientists in its researcher file. COS is fee-based though many of its databases can be searched for free. Access to Commerce Business Daily and Federal Register.

DIALOG (<http://www.dialog.com/dialog/dialog1.html>)

An example of an online service offering over four hundred databases including the GRANTS database (File 85) and the CRIS/USDA (File 60). These files can be searched using DIALOG command language, via telnet, for a fee. An fee-based "Alert" service is available for automatic updates a profile you create. Updates are sent to your e-mail address or fax number each time the selected databases are updated.

FEDIX/MOLIS (<http://www.fie.com/>)

The acronym stands for Federal Information Exchange/Minority On-Line Information Service. FEDIX/MOLIS is the most used research site for grant services. Free "one-stop shop" for services to over twelve federal agencies. MOLIS is a clearinghouse of grants for black universities and colleges and institutions serving Hispanics."

Illinois Researcher Information Service (IRIS)

(<http://www.grainger.uiuc.edu/iris/>) is a subscription service offering searches of announcements by keyword, agency and deadline. A clear, easy to use page with



an obvious interest in having the visitor find what is desired. Includes many free databases and provides multiple links to other funding sites and online services. An excellent site developed by the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign Research officers.

Internet Law Library (<http://www.pls.com:8001/his/7.htm>)

Among the many sources at this site are the Federal Register, EPA Rules, Occupational Safety and Health Administration notice and regulations, and the Code of Federal Regulations. More help screens would have made this site easier to use.

Knowledge Express (<http://www.keds.com/>)

Offers synopses of university and company created technologies and is "the premier service for business development." Knowledge Express has Licensing Executives Agreement, NASA Tech Briefs, and more.

Sponsored Programs Information Network (SPIN)

(<http://spin.infoed.org/>) Impressive, easy to use, "number one database of funding opportunities" fee-based service offering extensive numbers of links to related and important funding sites like GrantsNet, Library of Congress, NEH, Department of Agriculture and Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance, with thousands of opportunities for projects across all disciplines.

Teltech (<http://us.teltech.com/>)

An "independent provider of technical research, analysis, consulting services to American Industry." A subscription-based service with a big potential. This site offers synopses of university and company created technologies.

SEARCH FAVORITE SITES

A favorite URL of librarians is the University of Michigan's library school (<http://www.lib.umich.edu/>) where students have entered an impressive collection of bibliographies of URLs in many different subject areas. Fortune and Viers created a comprehensive and current bibliography, URL List for Grant Seekers (Last Updated January 6, 1996)(4).

OTHER SERVICES AND SITES

Major publications often list sites of value and of interest to the researcher. The Chronicle of Higher Education Information Technology Resources pages often will list places to go. Last fall it listed the Community of Science as an excellent site. On this same page, under "Universities," often there will be listed the information available on the home pages of an institution, for instance, the 1/12/96 CHE listed "grant programs," under Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (<http://www.sipi.tec.nm.us/>). Library literature yielded another type of



reference pertinent to this subject: Hoffman's "Fundraising: A Selected List of Internet Resources" (5).

ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

Transmission of proposals via the internet is not so far away. According to the Chronicle of Higher Education (6) developments of the Electronic Data Interchange (E.D.I.) will change how proposals are submitted. Currently a standard is being developed and awaiting approval by the American National Standards Institute. In addition to the technological developments, though, researchers need to change their minds about how a proposal is submitted and they must learn to trust the computer to transmit what they see on their own printed pages.

SUMMARY

James Brett, Director of Research a California State University, Long Beach, said, in a personal communication, "I think that e-mail, the web, and FTP alone will change the world. They already have. I think that electronic submission is probably going to be quite easy in a year of so. In the meantime I favor the internet because it gives people direct connection, gives the agency the opportunity to add advisories, if necessary, and it is easier for our office to use." (7)

Currently the internet provides an exciting cornucopia of sites and information for funding sources through any number of sites and search engines. But what will be offered in the coming years in resources, information, and opportunities via the internet, is truly something to be anticipated.

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