

A Sketch Introduction to Research Grants

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Why should I be looking for grants, fellowships, other funding?

- **Support for dissertation work beyond departmental support**
 - **Frees up resources for other students!**
- **Support for more complex or expensive research than that funded by university or departmental resources**
 - **Travel to field sites, archives, conferences**
 - **Software and, in some cases, hardware**
- **Development of a professional network**
- **Prestige and career accomplishment—really!**
 - **It matters on your CV—but don't get obsessive**

How do I find funding opportunities?

- From your advisor
- From other faculty
- From professional organizations

How do I find funding opportunities?

- **Agency web sites**

- **NSF**

- *Think of programs in the SBE directorate (Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences)*

- **NEH—Mostly the R36 program**

- *Example: Digital Humanities Startup Grants*

- <http://www.neh.gov/grants/guidelines/digitalhumanitiesstartup.html>

- **NIH**

- *Example: health IT (a stretch, maybe?)*

- <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-HS-08-014.html>

- **Mission agencies (tougher nut to crack)**

- **Private funders**

How do I find funding opportunities?

- **From word of mouth with your colleagues here and at other schools (this is why networking is so important!)**
- **General web searches on Google**
- **Community of Science**

Challenges

- **Some programs will not fund dissertation research**
 - Think of grants for *post-disaster research to extend your dissertation research. Have funders in mind while on the job market.*
 - Work with a faculty member who will be the “official” PI.
- **Balancing dissertation and other needs with grant seeking**
 - Focus on the dissertation first
 - Try to write both grant applications and dissertation sections
 - *Do not think that you can just cut and paste parts of the dissertation into a grant proposal!*

Reality check

- **Grant funding is *very competitive***
- **Do not dream up a project for a grant—develop a project, then do the proposal**
- **Follow *all the rules for the proposal!***
 - **Page limits**
 - **Type face and margins (really!)**
 - **Ancillary items**
- **Near perfect writing!**

Questions