Show Me the Money:
Using COS Pivot to Find Doctoral Student Funding Opportunities

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Workshop Objectives

- Discuss and demonstrate web-based funding databases.
  - Set up a COS Pivot account and run through its features.
  - Review other funding opportunities search resources relevant to doctoral students.
- Discuss search strategies.
Prepare for Your Search

• **Write a lay-language prospectus.**
  - Keywords, target population, methodologies, areas of innovation, collaborating disciplines, outcomes and impact.
• Determine type of funding needed.
• List priorities.
• Consider timing and deadlines.
• Consider pros and cons of Public and Private funding.
• Review University proposal submission procedures.
Getting in the Right Mindset

How the
Database
Thinks

How You
Think

How Sponsors
Think

How the
Database
Thinks
It’s not an ATM.
Ways of Searching Pivot

Quick Search
- Search across all available funding opportunities.

Sponsor Search
- Search for all programs in the database attached to a specific sponsor.

Search Advisor
- Find funding matches based on expertise profiles.

Advanced Search
- Constructs a targeted, field-specific search using search boxes, browsing windows, and pick lists.
Managing Your Results: Account Benefits

- Good opp?
- Find collaborators
- Find other opps like this one
- Receive alerts
- Save query
- Save to tracked list
- Save to active list
- Share with others
LIVE DEMONSTRATION OF COS PIVOT
<table>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Graduate Student; Minority; Women; Persons with Disabilities; etc...</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sponsor Type</td>
<td>if you want to limit to a certain type of sponsor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Submission type</td>
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<td>Predoctoral Residential Research Fellowships</td>
<td>01 Dec 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mark B. Bain Graduate Fellowship Program</td>
<td>18 Mar 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eugene Garfield Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship</td>
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<td>George and Marion Plossl Doctoral Dissertation Award</td>
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<td>Mathematical Sociology Outstanding Researcher Progress Award</td>
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<td>Stuart L. Bernath Dissertation Grant</td>
<td>01 Oct 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fellowship Program</td>
<td>15 Nov 2013</td>
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**Mark B. Bain Graduate Fellowship Program**

**ABSTRACT**
The Foundation awards full-time research fellowships to advanced graduate students conducting research on the Hudson River system.

**ELIGIBILITY**
Applicants must be enrolled in an accredited doctoral or master’s program, must have a thesis advisor and advisory committee (if appropriate to the institution), and must have a thesis research plan approved by the student’s institution or...
### Funding Opportunities Details

**Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowships**

Opp ID: 101959 | Dissertation or Thesis | Last edited on 05 Feb 2013


- **Sponsor**: American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS)  
  Andrew W. Mellon Foundation/ACLS Early Career Fellowship Program

- **Amount**: Upper $33,000

  ACLS will award 65 Fellowships in this competition for a one-year term beginning between June and September 2013 for the 2013-2014 academic year. The total award of up to $33,000 includes a stipend plus additional funds.

- **Requirements**: Graduate Student

- **Citizenship or Residency**: United States

- **Activity location**: Unrestricted

**Abstract**:

ACLS invites applications for the seventh annual competition for the Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowships, which support a year of research and writing to help advanced graduate students in the humanities and related social sciences in the last year of Ph.D. dissertation writing.

For the purpose of this competition, the humanities and related social sciences include but are not limited to American studies, anthropology, archaeology, art and architectural history, classics, economics, environmental studies, film, gender studies, geography, history, languages, linguistics, literature, music, musicology, political science, psychology, sociology, theater, etc.

**Keywords**:

- Geography
- Musicology or Music Theory
- Political Science
- Dramatic or Theatre Arts
- Social Sciences
- Architecture
- Archaeology
- Communications
- Anthropology
- Arts and Humanities
- Economic History
- Religious Studies
- Language or Literature
- Law
- History and Appreciation of Art
- Rhetoric
- Philosophy
If you have a profile...

**Update your Profile:**
1. Log into your account
2. Claim Profile
3. Click on your name and select Update Profile

**Create a Profile:**
1. Go to a profile search results page
2. Click Suggest a Scholar
Weekly Funding Alerts

COS Funding Alert for Jessica Venable

**Services (HHS)**
National Institutes of Health (NIH)
National Institute on Aging (NIA)

2 **Youth Leadership Program With Sub-Saharan Africa**

Sponsor:
United States Department of State (DOS)
Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA)

3 **Gallagher Koster Innovative Practices in Culturally Competent Health Care**

Sponsor:
American College Health Association
American College Health Foundation

4 **Diversity Initiatives**

Sponsor:
Mellon Foundation, Andrew W.

5 **NIDDK Education Program Grants (R25)**
Tips for Using Pivot

• Consider also using “old” keywords.
• Look for keyword patterns.
• Pay attention to notes within individual records.
• Look for an opportunity you know and replicate its description.
• Look up your mentors’ and colleagues’ funding matches.
• Use notifications features (alerts come once a week).
• Use the Support Guides as needed.
Tips for NOT Using Pivot

• The database **DOES NOT** contain “everything.”
• **OR,** the database does contain “everything,” and we are not searching correctly.
• When looking for a particular opportunity, go to the source.
• There is no substitute for word-of-mouth.
OTHER GRANTSEARCH TOOLS
Grants.gov

- Find and apply for more than $400 Billion in Federal grants.
- Basic search, browse, and advanced search options.
- Sign up for daily email alerts.
- I use grants.gov when:
  1. I am looking for a particular funding opportunity that I know the name/number of.
  2. An agency only posts its opportunities on grants.gov.
  3. A field has a limited number of opportunities.

http://grants.gov/
Agencies of Interest: **NIH**

- **Doctoral students:** Predoctoral Individual National Research Service Award (F31).
- Search for funding opportunities using the NIH Guide.
  - Basic and Advanced search options
  - Search for unsolicited opportunities
- Sign up for weekly funding alerts and Extramural Nexus.
- Get guidance on NIH-specific grant writing, the application process, and the review process.

[http://grants.nih.gov/grants/oer.htm](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/oer.htm)
Agencies of Interest

- AHRQ
  
  http://www.ahrq.gov/fund/

- CDC
  
  All funding announcements posted at grants.gov or use COS Pivot Sponsor search

  http://www.cdc.gov/about/business/funding.htm

  National Prevention Information Network funding opportunities

Agencies of Interest

- HRSA
  
  http://www.hrsa.gov/grants/index.html/

- USDA
  
  Use grants.gov or COS Pivot Sponsor search


- Department of Defense
  
  Use COS Pivot or grants.gov
Other Organizations’ Search Tools

- **National Academies of Sciences**
  - The Fellowships Office (FO) of the National Academies administers predoctoral, postdoctoral, and senior fellowship awards on behalf of government and private/foundation sponsors.
  
  http://sites.nationalacademies.org/pga/fellowships/

- **FundSource**
  - A free online database of research funding specific to behavioral and social science research.

  http://www.decadeofbehavior.org/intro.html
Other Organizations’ Search Tools

- **MSU Libraries**: Grants and Related Resources
  - By academic level, by population group, or by subject.
  - Lists of funding opportunities, databases, and print resources.

  http://staff.lib.msu.edu/harris23/grants/index.htm

- **VCU Libraries**: Research Guides
  - Grants and Funding tips in health sciences, STEM fields, and other disciplines for graduate students.

  http://guides.library.vcu.edu/home
SEARCHING FOUNDATIONS
The Foundation Center: The free side

- Gathers and analyzes data and provides training on private giving worldwide.
  - Webinars, self-paced tutorials, on-line courses.
  - Search general information about private funders, including tax records.
- Access news and RFPs by discipline through *Philanthropy News Digest*.
- Also hosts [www.grantspace.org](http://foundationcenter.org/).
Search Strategies

- Review the literature.
  - Emerging areas of study, opportunities for collaboration
  - Emerging sources of funding (check acknowledgements)
- Search for a funding opportunity that you know, then work backwards.
- Look for keyword patterns, ideas.
- **Start broad, then narrow** (especially for graduate funding).
- Explore alternative disciplines, think about where the money is.
- **Think about characteristics of you.**
Grant Search and Development Assistance for Students

• **The Graduate School:** for individual assistance identifying funders.

• **The National Scholarship Office:** for assistance applying for prestigious national and international scholarships.

  [http://www.honors.vcu.edu/nationalscholar/](http://www.honors.vcu.edu/nationalscholar/)

• **The Writing Center:** for assistance writing and editing grant proposals.

  [http://uc.vcu.edu/learning-support/writing-center/](http://uc.vcu.edu/learning-support/writing-center/)
QUESTIONS?
I am most often asked...

- How often do I have to search the databases?
- How many results should I expect on any search?
- How many grants should I apply for?
- When should I apply for a grant?
- Can I contact a program officer?
- Where can I get examples of funded proposals?