Finding Grant Opportunities for Libraries and Technology

Nikki Busch, Grants Librarian
University of Wisconsin-Madison

262 A Memorial Library
728 State St.
Madison, WI 53706
608.262.6431
nbusch@library.wisc.edu
Today’s Program

• Foundation Center Cooperating Collections

• What you need to know **before** you look for grants

• How you can identify funding **partners**

• Sources and resources for your grantseeking efforts
Foundation Center & Cooperating Collections

- Nonprofit organization headquartered in NYC
- Nation’s leading authority on organized philanthropy, grants, and giving
- Maintains the most comprehensive database on U.S. grantmakers and their grants
- “Cooperating Collections” located in every state where you can access this information/materials: http://foundationcenter.org/collections/
What is a grant & who gets them?

“Grant: an award of funds to an organization or individual to undertake charitable activities.“

Council on Foundations
www.cof.org

Organizations whose purposes are charitable, educational, scientific, religious, literary, or cultural.
Eligibility

- 501(c)(3) nonprofit, tax-exempt designation from the IRS
  or
- Library Foundation with 501(c)(3) status
  or
- Fiscal Sponsor (a nonprofit) to receive and administer grants on your library’s behalf
  or
- Grantmaker indicates that Public, School or Academic Libraries are eligible regardless of 501(c)(3) status
Money but not FREE Money!

“Every grant I have ever seen required some expenditure on the part of the recipient.”

James Swan in Fundraising for Libraries

- Time (6-12 months)
- Energy (research, writing, follow-up & expectations)
- Money (funding prep- and post-work)
Step 1: Know Your Project (thoroughly)

- What need(s) will this project respond to and how?
  - Who will be helped?
  - What are the goals of the project?
  - How will you know if/when you meet those goals?
  (This is where you will find your keywords/subjects.)

- What TYPE of funding do you need?
  - Seed money
  - Project development/Project support
  - Equipment
  - General/Operating Support

- How much $$ do you need?
  - Realistic detailed budget
  - Direct and indirect costs
Step 2: Consider potential stakeholders

- Foundations (private, community, corporate-sponsored)
  - Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
  - George Kress Foundation, Inc. (no web site)
  - Verizon Foundation

- Direct Corporate Giving Programs
  - Pizza Hut, Inc.

- Government Agencies (federal, state, and local)
  - Institute of Museum and Library Services
  - State of WI Higher Education Board

- Associations/Societies
  - American Library Association
  - Beta Phi Mu International Library Science Honorary Society
Step 3: Research Common Interests

*What they SAY they will & what they do!*

- Who has an interest in your area of interest?
- Who funds in your geographic area?
- Who will provide the TYPE of support you need?
- Who has given in the dollar range you need?
Where should I look?

- **Foundation Directory Online Professional** (and other databases)

- **Grants for Libraries and Information Services** (e-book)
- **Grants for Information Technology** (e-book)
  - “Computer systems/equipment, public affairs/government”
  - “Electronic media/online services, social sciences”

- Request For Proposal Websites
  - [Philanthropy News Digest](#)
  - [Chronicle of Philanthropy Deadlines](#)

- Agency Web sites
  - [National Endowment for the Humanities](#)
  - [Institute of Museum and Library Services](#)

Note: This is **not** a complete list of resources available, please see [http://grants.library.wisc.edu/organizations/libraries.html](http://grants.library.wisc.edu/organizations/libraries.html) for a more complete listing.
Research Individual Grantmakers

- Grantmaker Websites
- Grantmaker Documents
  - Annual Reports
  - Newsletters
  - Guidelines/Brochures
  - Requests for Proposals (RFPs)
- News & Magazine Articles; Philanthropic Literature
- IRS Filings (Forms 990-PF and 990)
Want to learn more?

• UW-Madison’s Grants Information Collection web site:  http://grants.library.wisc.edu

• Foundation Center web site:  
  http://foundationcenter.org
  ▫ Free Webinars  
    http://foundationcenter.org/getstarted/training/webinars/
  ▫ FAQs  
    http://foundationcenter.org/getstarted/faqs/full_list.html
Questions?

Thank you!