Sloan/ICPSR Challenge Grants

Improving Data Citation and Data Management

Summarized by Eileen Allen, Charlotte Flynn, and Sarika Sharma from the webinar presentation now available on YouTube: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4X2YK2SD4eU

Eligibility: Institution of Higher Education
Duration: 1 year; starting June 1, 2013; final report due May 14, 2014
Due: April 15, 2013
Two to five awards of up to $20,000 each will be made.

Three primary interest areas:

a. **Editorial workflows** relative to data management, data verification/validation, data citation (re journal producers)
   i. New open data requirements (journals, professional associations, feds considering)
   ii. Replication data
   iii. Program scripts
   b. Needs
      i. Tracking manuscripts and data
      ii. Verifying operability of data and programs (tools)
      iii. Templates for documenting data sources, analysis, etc

b. **Data management**
   a. Establishing a tradition for social sciences similar to the ‘lab notebook’ tradition in the hard sciences
   b. Training current and future researchers to document:
      i. Data acquisition and processing
      ii. Cleaning, coding, filtering
      iii. Data analysis
   c. Developing standards for this kind of documentation

b. **Data citation**
   a. Benefits
      i. Recognizing the contributions of data producers
      ii. Linking research across disciplines
   b. Emerging Infrastructure, e.g.Data Citation Index, DOIs
   c. Standards development (journals are not good at making this happen)

Selection criteria:

a. Potential for improving current practices
b. Impact on research community
c. Innovation
d. Applicable to multiple disciplines across scientific domains

Email applications to Russel Hathaway (rhataway@umich.edu). [No the email does not contain a typo.]
Webinar Questions/Answers

1. Are non-US applicants eligible?
   Yes.

2. Can we get feedback from ICPSR on our ideas prior to submission?
   Yes. Email George Alter (altergc@umich.edu) or Mary Vardigan (vardigan@umich.edu)

3. Are there any restrictions or limitations on how the funding may be spent?
   No. Budget should be consistent with the project.

4. Are there indirect costs?
   We would encourage you to seek a waiver of indirects from your sponsored research office.

5. Can federal agencies apply?
   Yes, we believe so.

6. Can consortia apply?
   Yes.

7. Should projects that address social sciences be scalable to other disciplines?
   Our primary interest is in improving social science practice, but we welcome projects that can also benefit other disciplines.

8. Are matching funds required or welcomed?
   Matching funds are welcomed.

9. Are you looking for practical projects? Or can conceptual projects be submitted?
   We are really looking for projects that impact the social science community. Conceptual projects would need to explain their potential impact and make their case within the proposal.

10. Must a project have a connection to the ICPSR repository?
    This program is not linked to the repository. There is no expectation that the repository will be used within a project. Projects should benefit the social science community. Reviewers for these proposals are not ICPSR staff.

11. Can multi-institutional collaborators apply?
    Yes. Multi-institutional projects are not required. We would not encourage you to build a collaboration for this project. Considering the funding level, this may not be cost-effective, but it’s fine to leverage an existing collaboration.

12. Can professional associations apply if applications are run through a member’s home institution?
    Partnerships with professional organizations is fine. [See answer to 11 above]
    Professional associations are key in this area as they have ethics guidelines, set standards and are publishers of the key journals in this area.

13. Do you discourage or limit monies going to vendors or consultants?
    No.

14. Who should the proposal be submitted to?
    There is a PDF document cited in the presentation which has the guidelines for this program. On the last page, the person to send the proposal is named: Russel Hathaway (rhataway@umich.edu). [No the email does not contain a typo.]

15. Additional questions can be sent to Russel, George or Mary.
**Observation from Charlotte:**

George Alter, the director of ICPSR, was primary webinar speaker. His comments about training and data management struck me as researcher workflow-oriented and relating to training researchers, not data managers or librarians.

**Note from Charlotte on professional association interest in research transparency:**

Alter said they want to improve data access and research transparency. Research transparency refers both to production transparency (how data is produced, what archivists call provenance) and analytic transparency (how the data is used to get a specific result).

Some professional associations are releasing guidelines advocating for open data to support research transparency. For example, this is a central concern for the American Political Science Association, driven by advocacy from Colin Elman, a Maxwell faculty member. Elman runs the Consortium for Qualitative and Multi-method Research (CQRM), housed in Maxwell’s Moynihan Research Institute. Elman’s also part of Maxwell’s Institute for National Security and Counterterrorism. Alter recognized Elman’s work with ICPSR and noted he was a webinar participant. Elman is the PI on the NSF Funded Qualitative Data Repository, working closely with the iSchool’s Howard Turtle, CoPI. [http://nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward?AWD_ID=1061292](http://nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward?AWD_ID=1061292)

For more resources relevant to this area, contact Charlotte Flynn (charflynn5@gmail.com)