General Research Fund Report from the KU Libraries, 2010-2012

Submitted to the Faculty Senate Research Committee by the KU Libraries’ Committee for Research and Scholarly Activities

I. Goals and Criteria

A. Unit Goal Statement

The Libraries’ Committee on Research and Scholarly Activities (CRSA), in keeping with the Libraries’ mission, works to encourage, promote, and support research and scholarly activities of library faculty. Naturally, one of the major fields of research for librarians is information studies. In addition, many librarians have subject expertise. Their research interests cover a broad range of academic fields. Librarians’ research projects provide them with professional growth and development opportunities, enabling them to better support the research of KU faculty and students, as well as encouraging them to lead and participate in local, state, regional, national, and international organizations in both their professional and subject fields. Through programmatic research our librarians share in advancing the field of librarianship and related fields, and provide leadership and support to other faculty in the university.

We encourage those who receive GRF awards to produce and share tangible evidence of their research results with others in their professions through both presentation and publication.

The support of the Faculty Senate Research Committee and the KU Center for Research through the General Research Fund has enabled the library faculty to contribute to their profession and to garner additional recognition for the University of Kansas at local, state, regional, national, and international levels. For a list of citations to all library faculty publications and presentations that were outcomes of Libraries’ GRF funded research awards, please see the appendix.

B. Policies and Procedures for the Libraries’ GRF Competition

1. Eligibility of Applicants - All library faculty members are eligible to submit one GRF proposal as the principal investigator each fiscal year. Note: Faculty members who are within their first 24 months as KU faculty are strongly encouraged to apply to the New Faculty General Research Fund grant before, or concurrently with the Libraries’ GRF.

2. Composition of the Committee - The CRSA administers the General Research Funds for the Libraries. The Library Faculty and Professionals Association’s Executive Committee (LFPA Exec) appoints CRSA members from among volunteers. The committee is comprised of five faculty members with an effort to include a representative from all three ranks of librarians. If a member of CRSA submits a GRF proposal that person does not participate in the review of any proposals for that year’s competition.

3. Evaluation Criteria

   a. Major Review Criteria
      i. Merit and significance of the project
      ii. Importance of the project to the discipline or to interdisciplinary efforts
iii. Innovation, creativity, scholarly approach
iv. Will this project likely lead to a publication, presentation, or other form of outcome?
b. Research Plan
   i. Are the research objectives clearly stated and addressed?
   ii. Does the plan describe research methods adequately?
   iii. Does the plan reflect adequate knowledge of related literature?
   iv. Is the plan likely to be completed within the time and budget constraints?
c. Additional Review Criteria
   i. Applications of faculty early in their careers will be given additional weight.
   ii. Renewals or continuations of worthwhile projects on which sufficient progress can be documented will be given additional weight.

4. Evaluation Procedures
   a. Applicants turn in one electronic copy of their application form to the chair of CRSA.
   b. All applications are due by 5:00pm on the day of the announced deadline.
   c. All applications are read by all committee members except committee members who apply for a GRF award during the current competition year. The evaluation criteria outlined above are used to make final decisions.

5. Notification Procedures
   a. Applicants and necessary library administrative staff are notified of the results.
   b. The library staff is notified of successful applicants and the scope of the projects.
   c. All applications are kept in CRSA’s documentation with reasons for funding or not funding.
   d. All successful applications are put on CRSA’s GRF website to be used by future applicants as examples. These records will also form a permanent “public” record of library research supported by GRF money.

6. Rules for Spending Library GRF Award Money
Because librarians are on twelve month appointments, KU Libraries’ GRF awards cannot be used for library staff salaries. Budget items that will be considered when justified in the application include payments to consultants, reprint costs, travel costs (including transportation, lodging, per diem or meal costs, etc.), and costs of certain types of equipment, supplies or other resources that will later be donated to the Libraries.

II. Evidence – How Our Unit’s Goals Have Been Met
A. Outcomes from Libraries’ GRF Awards FY10 – FY12
From 2010 – 2012 the Libraries awarded six GRF proposals and spent all of its allotted money. Research conducted with these awards resulted in:
   • Two peer reviewed articles
   • One book chapter
   • Numerous presentations at local, state, regional, national, and international venues
• The transcription and indexing of oral interviews that will serve as primary resources for researchers
• Positive publicity for the University
  o Example: “Bumper stickers are snapshots of issues, sentiments of the day,” Lawrence Journal World, Feb. 21, 2011
  o Radio program, University of Missouri- Kansas City, Feb. 22, 2011
• A successful sabbatical leave application for a book length manuscript
• Expanded opportunities for community engagement

More published research is anticipated this year based on work funded in the past three years.

Our committee views these results as positive progress in assisting library faculty to develop a programmatic research program, and to share their results, broadly, with the scholarly community. Since 2003 the Libraries’ Committee has approved approximately thirty-one GRF awards for research projects which have resulted in several books, several book chapters, numerous articles in peer reviewed journals, numerous presentations at local, state, national, and international venues, the creation of a major oral history collection, and the development of several scholarly websites. Research awards and results over the past three years strengthen and continue the research activities of our faculty. GRF funds are vital to our success in this area, and our committee urges continued funding.

B. Our GRF Related Research Goals

The CRSA has sponsored many events and developed materials and programs designed to encourage library staff members to engage in research projects. Examples include:

1. Workshops on identifying and applying for outside funding Panels and discussion groups, writing support groups, and other groups.
2. Mentoring library staff members who are beginning to participate in the scholarly process.
3. Maintaining an internal website to preserve GRF information and make it easily available.

Submitted by Sherry Williams, Chair, Committee for Research and Scholarly Activities, KU Libraries, 3/1/2013
Appendix - Publications and Presentations of GRF Recipients 2010 – 2012

Publications


Presentations


Albin, T. (June 18-19, 2010) “Framing Your Oral History Project.” Oral History Weekend Workshop, Hall Center for the Humanities, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS. (Presentation)

Albin, T. (June 18-19) “Technology is Your Friend (Really),” Oral History Weekend Workshop, Hall Center for the Humanities, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS. (Presentation)

Albin, T. (May 18, 2010). “Documenting Life Under the Rainbow: 56 Interviews Later and a Whole Lotta Miles On My Car.” Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), Manhattan, KS. (Invited Speaker)

Albin, T. (April 26, 2010). “What Did I Find ‘Under the Rainbow’? Reflecting on GLBTIQ Oral History in Kansas.” Gender Seminar, Hall Center for the Humanities, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS. (Invited Speaker)


