

Committee Report: Research and Publication Committee

Date: March 16, 2005

Members of the Committee: (and dates their current term expires)

Katie Clark, Chair (8/15/05)

Karen Hogenboom (8/15/05)

Winnie Chan (8/15/05)

Cherié Weible (8/15/05)

Lisa Hinchliffe (8/15/06)

Bob Burger (ex officio)

Mission:

- Encourage research and publication by providing monetary support (RPC grants; copy cards; equipment)
- Stimulate discussion of research ideas and methodologies (brown bags)
- Serve as a clearinghouse of information about outside sources of funding (website lists local resources as well as IRIS (funding opportunities db); exploring ways that Susan Harum (IRIS Coordinator) may help with external grant applications)
- Provide practical criticism of research projects (pre and post submission of grants; brown bags)
- Act as an advocate for the research interests of the Library faculty. (PapersInvited; GSLIS Showcase)

Activities:

- **Brown bags** – 2nd Tuesday of the month. Have averaged about 10 speakers / year for the past three years.
- **UIUC copy cards** for research – If you need a copy card (300-500 copies / card) contact the Chair. Up to \$75 / year. No formal grant application required! RPC also funds a copy card for use in the LIS library; ask at the circ desk for it.
- License **Papersinvited** for use by the Library faculty, as well as campus. It is a searchable database of calls for papers, posters and publications from professional bodies, universities, journal editors and other conference organizers. Sign up at the site, and create a customized area with just your research areas listed, and receive email alerts for those areas.
- Coordinated the Library's presentation at the **GSLIS Research Showcase**.
Over 50 faculty sent in titles & abstracts, representing nearly 60 research projects. RPC prepared a list of authors and project titles, which was passed out to all Showcase attendees, and created a website with abstracts.
- **Equipment to loan:**
 - Have four portable PCs equipped with all the standard software including FrontPage. Recently equipped with wireless capability.
 - HP Deskjet 320 printer
 - 3M 2000 Overhead Data Projector
 - Nview Z LCD Panel
 - Sony digital voice recorder

Reserve the equipment by calling / emailing the Chair. Check the online schedule beforehand, to determine if the equipment is available when you need it.

- **Maintain Website**, which contains information on all activities of the RPC including grant application forms, alternative sources of funding, equipment and equipment scheduling. <http://www.library.uiuc.edu/committee/rpc/>
- **Research Grants**

Our usual annual allotment from the Library is \$34,000.00.

Amounts "granted" by RPC the past few years:

Year	Amount granted	Number of Grants	Number of Grantees.	Ave Size of Grant (\$)	Range of Grants (\$)
1998-1999:	\$29,901.65.	11	13	2718	129 - 5667
1999-2000:	\$16,665.00	11	11	1515	100 - 3000
2000-2001:	\$13,864.50	12	14	1155	221 - 3200
2001-2002:	\$27,048.82	19	21	1423	271 - 2899
2002-2003:	\$12,674.70	12	14	1056	366 - 2174
2003-2004:	\$24,566.18	12	15	1638	585 - 4400
2004-2005:	\$12,230.25 (thus far)	8	9	1528	100 - 4435

In addition, we've purchased copy cards, computers, some other equipment, and software, which isn't reflected in the grants budget.

Partial list of research needs supported: (# since 1998; many grants had multiple request needs)

39	Hourly graduate student assistance wages	3	Survey design and administration
26	Research travel (domestic and international)	3	Postage to send out research surveys
13	Photocopying	3	Data analysis
11	Hourly undergraduate student assistance wages	1	Software license
7	Photographic services (slides, illustrations, photographs)	1	Purchase data
4	Translation	1	Oral history interviews
4	Editing (more, probably, folded under grad assistance)	1	Gifts for participants
		1	Equipment rental

Not supported:

- Non-research travel -- e.g., funds to attend a meeting. If you're presenting at the meeting, you may apply for funds from the UIUC Scholars' Travel Fund
- Graduate assistantships
- Prolonged research spanning years of investigation
- Computer time on UIUC computers
- Postage, telephone costs, and ordinary office supplies
- Additions to the collection, including research material and computer software
- Retroactive expenses
- Library administrative work – The RPC does not have the funds to support work that falls in the category of "running the library". On the other hand, application could be made to the RPC for funds to develop new methodology for accomplishing a work project such as to fund a prototype project or to analyze data from a work-related project. In all cases the "research" component should be stressed in the application. If you're not sure whether your project is library work or research, please inquire.

Hints for Success in preparing RPC grants.

- Read the instructions – read carefully:
 - Application Form and Guidelines for the Narrative Proposal
 - Policies for Award Approval
- Cost out needs – justify the money and hours of assistance requested. Do a trial run of what you are requesting funds for, and then extrapolate up to the size of the project
- Ask yourself if this study or project is publishable. Only scholarly research is funded; not administration or librarianship responsibilities and initiatives.
- Provide publication plan – which journals will you likely submit your research to? Have other similar papers appeared in this publication?
- Provide a fairly detailed plan of your project.
- Before you go through the trouble of preparing an application, run your idea past the Chair.

Future Plans for the RPC

- Lisa Hinchliffe is looking into leading a multi-month, work-book driven class on “how to conduct research and publish a paper.”
- Work with Susan Harum to help Library faculty successfully apply for outside grants