Beware: Predatory Academic Publishing and Conferences

UWM faculty preparing to disseminate the results of their research, either through publishing or presenting at conferences, should be aware of a growing international trend of predatory practices among some online open-access publishers and conference organizers.

The increasing interest in open-access publishing, funded largely through publication fees or article processing charges to authors or their institutions, has created many opportunities for researchers to share their peer-reviewed work with free access in online journals. Unfortunately, it has also given rise to an exploitative publishing business model that involves charging fees to authors without providing the services associated with legitimate academic journals, such as editorial and publishing services, and, in particular, appropriately conducted peer review. Disreputable publishers actively solicit manuscripts for the purpose of generating revenue; to give the impression of academic authenticity, such publishers are known to invite established scholars to be named as editorial board members.

Predatory conferences also exploit researchers’ need to share and present their research. These are enterprises that organize low-quality academic meetings for profit, attracting paying participants with famous keynote speakers or presenting themselves under the guise of similarly named reputable conferences.

There are several valuable resources for determining the integrity of publications and conferences. The Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association website provides extensive information about open-access publishing standards and the publishers who adhere to them. University of Colorado Denver librarian and researcher Jeffrey Beall, who coined the term “predatory publishing,” maintains a list of “potential, possible, or probable predatory scholarly open-access publishers.” The list is available on his website, Scholarly Open Access, which provides “critical analysis of scholarly open-access publishing” as well as information about predatory conferences.

The UWM Libraries also have resources to assist faculty with identifying and responding to offers from predatory publishers and other topics relating to open-access publishing. For assistance, please contact Kristin Woodward, Online Programs and Instructional Design Coordinator at kristinw@uwm.edu.

Developing Data Management and Data Sharing Plans for Proposals

Many funding agencies—public and private—require a data management plan (DPM) as part of the proposal package. DPMs describe how data generated from the proposed project will be managed and then shared at the end of the project. Some sponsors have a pre-determined set of questions for applicants to their answer in developing their DMP (e.g., certain NSF directorates); other sponsors may allow for a less structured DPM. Regardless of the format, sponsors want to assurance that the data generated from the project will be carefully managed, protected, and shared appropriately.
Need assistance with developing a DMP for your proposal? **UWM Data Services can help.** Located in the UWM Libraries, knowledgeable staff is available to help you:

- Answer questions about data management plans.
- Review data management plans and drafts.
- Recommend repositories for data sharing.
- Advise on best practices for data management.

Visit [UWM Data Services](mailto:) or email Kristin Briney at [briney@uwm.edu](mailto:) for assistance.

**Tips for Searching Grant Opportunities in UWM Research Listservs**

If you receive the UWM Research Listservs, you likely have noticed that for some weeks the list of funding opportunities can be rather long; in some cases, you may have received two separate emails for one week’s worth of funding opportunities. While it can be beneficial to be presented with many potential grant opportunities, finding the ones that best match your research can be time-consuming, especially when the lists exceed 100 grant opportunities. Here are some strategies that can help you save time and find relevant funding opportunities faster:

**Tips for Searching Research Listservs in MS Outlook**

1. In the Menu bar use the “Find” function (binoculars icon) and search by specific keywords related to your research/area of interest, such as “humanities”, “arts”, “STEM,” “bioscience,” or “social science”.

2. To find an exact match of a keyword, place quotation marks around the keyword, as shown above.

3. Avoid using keywords commonly found in the Listservs, such as “contact”, “links,” and deadlines, which are used in every listing, as well as very broad terms such as “technology,” “science,” and “health.”

4. If your keyword or phrase is also known by other terms/phrases (e.g., cost-sharing/matching funds) try searching by a portion of that keyword without quotation marks to find all instances in the Listserv. For example, cost-sharing is also known as “cost-share” or “matching funds”. To help find as many references to cost-sharing as possible, the best approach is to search by *share* to catch all instances of "sharing" and by *match* for all instances of "matching".

**Questions about the Research Listservs or searching for funding opportunities?** Contact Michelle Schoenecker in Proposal Development Services at [schoene7@uwm.edu](mailto:) or 229-2747.

**Pre-Award Administration**

**New NSF Automated Compliance Checks Effective August 1**

As a follow-up to the July 12 edition of the OSP Newsletter, NSF will implement changes to its FastLane system effective August 1, 2016. These changes include:

- **Biographical sketch(es) and Current and Pending Support documents for individual Senior Personnel listed in a proposal must be loaded separately into FastLane.** Uploading a single file with all the biosketches or current/pending support documents for Senior Personnel will no longer be allowed. Also, biosketch(es) no longer can be entered into FastLane as text—they must be file uploads.

- **Warning and Error Messages will continue after August 1.** Warning messages do not prevent proposals from submission; error messages will prevent submission. Please pay careful attention to the messages after August 1, as a number of “warning” messages will now change to “error” messages.

- **OSP will no longer be able to change PI passwords.** If you need to reset your password, please navigate directly to FastLane or Research.gov and click on the “Forget Password” link.

A full list of automated compliance checks is available from NSF.

**Take Note: Overdue NSF Reports**
NSF is now delaying award actions if a PI or Co-PI has an **overdue annual or final project report on any NSF award**, even if the projects are unrelated. **Such delays are preventable**: please keep current on all NSF project reports and be aware that your overdue reports may have an impact on colleagues’ NSF awards for which you are participating as Senior or Key Personnel, as their awards and non-competing continuations will be delayed, as well.

Questions? Contact Ron Fleischmann, Associate Director of Pre-Award Administration, at fleischm@uwm.edu or 229-4853.

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**Post-Award Administration**

**Departure of Principal Investigators and Key Personnel from UWM**

*By: Carla Durand and Jean Wolfgang*

If you are a PI or a key person named on an award for a sponsored project but have plans to leave UWM and transfer the award to another institution, please contact your Post-Award Specialist as soon as possible to initiate the award transfer process. This process may include:

- Contacting the OSP office at the new institution
- Terminating subawards
- Closing projects
- Making arrangements for key persons not leaving
- Rebudgeting
- Record retention plans
- Reviewing all existing project account balances/deficits
- Terminating salary encumbrances
- Notifying the sponsor
- Initiating a subaward with the new institution
- Transferring equipment
- Final reporting

The award transfer process can be time-consuming, so it’s important to initiate the process prior to departing from UWM to ensure a smooth transition to the new institution and avoid project delays. **Questions?** Contact Carla Durand, Assistant Director, Post-Award Administration, at durandc@uwm.edu or 229-6012.