



University of Pittsburgh

Sharing the Wealth: Opening Funding

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Clinton Graham
Systems Developer
University Library System
University of Pittsburgh

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I'm Clinton Graham, a software developer at the University of Pittsburgh.

The Pitt University Library System has been a development partner of PKP since 2011.

This talk is entitled "Sharing the Wealth: Opening Funding", because I think by better sharing metrics and stories about our work, we can facilitate everyone's efforts in small, local grantwriting.



A Pitch

Not:

- Sources for your funding
- Ways to steal funding from PKP
- Offering my own money

But:

- Sharing metrics and stories

This presentation is a pitch. I am not offering new sources for funding; I am not offering my own money.

You will not leave this presentation with any grant sources you don't already have, and I hope you don't steal grant opportunities from PKP itself.

But because we are doing cool things together, I think we can make grant writing and award submissions easier by sharing metrics and stories.



A Story

PKP Sprint PGH

- 3 Days
- Up to 40 participants
- So many projects!

The background for this talk is a Sprint which we hosted in Pittsburgh this summer. A PKP Sprint is a face-to-face event where developers and editors and industry partners can work together to improve our products. We just completed another Sprint here on campus, prior to this conference. We worked on documentation, translation, user experience, architecture, and coding projects.

I wanted to bring a development sprint to the University of Pittsburgh, the first in the U.S.

I imagined up to 40 participants coming to Pitt for three days to work together.



A Budget

- Catering: \$2,475
- Sponsored Dinner: \$920
- Housing: \$3,275
- Travel Sponsorships: \$5,000
- Signage and Nametags: \$250

These things cost money, and we don't charge for participation in the Sprint.

I wanted to dream big to make the event accessible to contributors even if they did not have an organization which can fund their travel.

So, I proposed a budget for food, for housing, for travel and for logistics.



A Grant

Year of PittGlobal

- Interdisciplinarity
- Collaboration
- Institutional/Community Impact

My university offered a local microgrant which sought to enhance Pitt's global impact. The Provost offered up to 50% matching funds for projects with goals of: interdisciplinarity, collaboration, and institutional and community impact.

Can you think of any global organizations which might be collaborating across disciplines to impact institutions and communities?

I submitted a grant proposal for the PKP Sprint.



University of Pittsburgh

A Grant

Year of PittGlobal

Interdisciplinarity

Collaboration

Institutional/Community Impact



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It was rejected. Oh, well.



A Nomination

Senior Vice Chancellor For Engagement's Partnerships of Distinction Award

- Community Engagement
 - Social and community development and impact
- Partnership
 - Reciprocity
 - Mutual benefit

Pitt also has an internal award which highlights community-oriented partnerships where there is mutual benefit to all parties, including the broader public good. A cash award of \$2000 was possible.

Can you think of any international partnerships which are built on mutual benefit and community engagement?

I nominated our relationship with PKP.



A Nomination

Senior Vice Chancellor for Engagement's
Partnership of Distinction Award

- Community Engagement
 - Social and community development impact
- Partnership
 - Reciprocity
 - Mutual benefit

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¡Qué lástima! Also rejected.

Believe it or not, I have written several successful grant proposals before. But none this summer.

These rejections did not stop the Sprint in Pittsburgh. But, we did cut out my hope of providing travel sponsorship, and we funded the event from the Library budget.



A Reflection

“Cool stuff” we are doing locally and worldwide

- How do we document it?
- How do we share it?

Despite being unsuccessful in both funding attempts, I was able to think about the process of submitting the proposals. I was particularly interested in the numbers and examples which I used as supporting evidence within the applications.

My applications referenced both the work we are doing at Pitt, and the work PKP is doing worldwide. I think I had to work too hard to find this.

I want it to be easier to share and to discover this information.

For example:



A Category: Interdisciplinarity

- Collaborators
 - Developers
 - Editors
 - Industry Partners
- Fields
 - Broad academic coverage



Interdisciplinary or cross-disciplinary collaboration is often of interest to funders.

We work together with collaborators across disciplines. We are integrating the contributions of computer programmers, academic and professional publishing staff, and industry and non-profit partners.

If you look at the disciplines which we are serving, their work often covers a wide diversity of fields, many of which are explicitly interdisciplinary.

For the PKP Sprint in Pittsburgh, our event supporters included faculty from Engineering, Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, and Sociology. Add in the perspectives of librarians and publishers and technologists, and you get a robust story of collaboration.



A Category: Interdisciplinarity

- Statistics
 - Contributor disciplines
 - Published disciplines
- Stories
 - LESLI
 - Ledger



So, in a funding application, I want to be able to easily cite statistics like:

- Contributor disciplines: I want to find counts of collaborator interactions which built the software and platform
- Published disciplines: I want to find counts of publications or publisher collaborations across disciplines.

I know I can tell stories of journals we publish at our library:

- LESLI: is an interdisciplinary journal for linguists, computer scientists, psychologists, psychiatrists, attorneys, law enforcement, security executives, and intelligence analysts
- Ledger: is a journal of blockchain and cryptocurrency technology, describing intersections with mathematics, computer science, engineering, law, and economics.



A Category: Impact

- On Publishing
- In the Organization
- In the Community



Another common funding category is impact.

We can highlight the impact PKP is having on academic publishing and on open access: from the broad install-base, to PKP's own research and open access initiatives.

There is also impact within the local organization. In our applications for Sprint funding we cited PKP as a foundation for the University of Pittsburgh becoming a leader in the field of library publishing. We also described interdisciplinary collaboration as one of the positive impacts to the organization.

Probably most interesting to a funder, though, is the impact we have within the community. For our award nomination, we described how our publishing program helps to amplify local, diverse and underrepresented voices within scholarly communications. At Pitt, we have journals which work in areas such as cultural studies, health disparity, and underserved communities.



A Category: Impact

- Statistics
 - Flipped to open-access journals
 - Bibliometrics and altmetrics
- Stories
 - August Wilson Journal
 - Anthropology and Aging



For example, I want to be able to find and to cite:

- How many journals have we converted from print or subscription-based publishing to electronic open access?
- I want easy access to collective metrics. How are articles being cited, shared, read, and reused?

We can tell stories of:

- August Wilson: a new journal with scholarship on a local African American playwright and his legacy
- Anthropology and Aging: cultural and historical study of the elderly across cultures and environments



A Category: Global Reach

- Translation
- Internationalization
- Distribution



Another area where it is easy to brag on what we are doing together with PKP is Global Reach.

PKP software has a strong history of being multilingual, both in the translation of the user interface, and in supporting multilingual entry of both metadata and published content. Recent work, even at the Sprint earlier this week, is improving the way translations of the user interface and the content are managed within the software.

The software is also addressing the challenges of internationalization in considering cross-cultural expectations for names, global identity disambiguation, and legal requirements and cultural conventions.

And, of course, PKP software is used worldwide.



A Category: Global Reach

- Statistics
 - Translation counts
 - Installation counts
- Stories
 - Bolivian Studies Journal
 - Japanese Language and Literature



So, for Statistics and Stories:

- Was OJS2 available in 34 or 36 translations? There are different numbers, probably depending on how current and complete the translation was. How complete is our coverage in OJS and OMP 3? Soon we'll be better able to quantify the translation efforts.
- Let's refine our known installation counts, because that can make for a really nice visual mapping.
- At the University of Pittsburgh, the Bolivian Studies Journal publishes articles about Bolivian culture and literature in English, Spanish, and the indigenous languages of Bolivia.
- My university is also known for its non-Western language collections. The journal Japanese Language and Literature provides a scholarly forum in the area of Japanese literature, Japanese linguistics, teaching Japanese as a second or foreign language, and Japanese culture.



A Category: Partnership

- Open / Free (Libre)
 - Ethical
 - Collaborative
 - Inclusive
 - Public Good
- Shared Governance



The final category I've been thinking about is that of Partnership.

This is, I think, at the core of the Public Knowledge Project. We operate on the principles of the Open Movement, and of Free Software. It is based in an ethical position. The work is done in a collaborative and inclusive method. Both the software and the research which our software supports is oriented toward the public good.

Our shared governance is another application of these principles. Our technical committee and members committee and advisory committee are made up of representatives of the partner organizations and of the community.



A Category: Partnership

- Statistics
 - Development/Strategic Partners
 - Sprint Participants
- Stories
 - Committees
 - Working Groups & Sprints



So, we can name the long list of our Development Partners and Strategic Partners to describe our Partnership. We can share numbers for participation in Sprints by region and by discipline and by organization to illustrate our work together.

I like to use our Technical Committee as a “story” example. We have 7 different institutions from 6 countries, plus community members, coordinating across 9 timezones. Similarly, our Sprint last year in Heidelberg featured participants from 17 countries working on 8 technical and non-technical projects. I do not know the numbers from this week’s Sprint, but I suspect it was even more diverse.



An Exploration

What other categories might be grant-worthy?



I have not covered multiple categories which might also be worth sharing: perhaps Return on Investment, or Innovation, or Sustainability, or Accessibility.

I am interested in your feedback of what metrics and stories might be broadly helpful.

I think that deliberately sharing these might help all of us to quickly pursue small funding opportunities as they become available.



A Pitch

What if we collected and shared these metrics and stories?

So, that is my pitch.

What if we collected and shared these metrics and stories?

I know some of what makes Pitt's relationship with PKP special, but when writing a grant, I want to be able to easily reference not just that, but also the other efforts worldwide which PKP is enabling.

I think we could each cite the work of other members of PKP, saying: "this is what we are supporting", or "this is what we are a part of" or "this is what we aspire to".

I think we might collectively strengthen our storytelling, our bragging, and our grantwriting. And maybe my next grant application will be successful, and maybe so will yours.



University of Pittsburgh

Thank you!

Let's discuss your experiences and ideas:

Email: ctgraham@pitt.edu

GitHub / PKP Forum / Slack: [@ctgraham](#)

I am interested if you think this pitch could work, or if you think this would cause problems which I am missing. I want to hear of the categories of statistics and stories we could share that I didn't mention.

If you have ideas, I'm listening now, or you can reach me on any of these channels.

Thank you.