Proposal for Increased Funding for the Library Research Travel Grant Program

Request:
The Faculty Senate Library Committee and OSU Libraries are requesting a $10,000 increase in funding for the Library Research Travel Grant (LRTG) program. This program is the only significant source of institutional support for OSU faculty who need to travel to libraries, archives, or collections to conduct research. Based on statistics collected over the last five years, this increase would allow all meritorious proposals to be fully funded and would allow the LRTG program to expand, increasing the ability of faculty across the university to do original, high-impact, and high-visibility scholarship.

While most science and engineering researchers come to OSU with substantial support for labs, equipment, etc., similar support is not readily available for scholars in the social sciences (including business) and humanities. The LRTG program is an important source of research support because no university library is capable of meeting all the needs of its faculty, especially when they have to travel to specialized collections. As part of her LRTG-funded research, for example, Professor Anita Helle traveled to gain access to “sound tapes of Sylvia Plath and Ted Hughes at the British Sound Library and small press publications...non-circulating, non-digitized, yet essential items.” As she notes, “the variability of copyright internationally (free use in the European Union and in the US deriving from two different legal traditions) means that many kinds of materials of interest to scholars will not likely be available in digitized forms anytime soon.” Professor Sally Gallagher’s travel research grant allowed her to study government documents in Syria’s national library, including transcripts of the President’s speeches. She also gained access to news from popular presses, including English-language Syrian newspapers, so she could study the editorial and opinion page debates versus the official government debate over the role of new technologies in Syria. As she said in her application letter, “Very little of this material is available outside the country.”

Background:
The LRTG program was founded in the 1990’s and is funded entirely through the Provost’s Office. There are two application cycles, one in the fall and one in the spring; a committee that includes representatives from OSU Libraries and the Faculty Senate Library Committee reviews the applications and makes award decisions. At the current funding level of $10,000 per year, the committee is able to award a total of five applicants a maximum of $2,000 each. If funding were increased as requested, we would be able to double that.

Access:
Since 2005, the LRTG program has received applications from faculty in 16 different areas across the university: anthropology, art, economics, English, ethnic studies, extension, foreign languages, history, horticulture, music, political science, philosophy, sociology, speech and communication, women studies, and zoology. These applications requested access to resources all over the world.

In that time period, the LRTG program has awarded $59,609. However, the unmet demand remains substantial, and the committee must often award partial rather
than full support (amounts have ranged from $400 to $2000, with 62.5% of funded applicants receiving less than the maximum amount).

Impact: Because the LRTG program funds research on materials only available in specialized collections and archives that would otherwise be inaccessible, it enables faculty to do original research that they would not be able to do without this support. While we were not able to contact every previous grantee, we were able to compile partial figures on outcomes from 19 recent recipients. Those outcomes include 26 presentations and talks, 29 journal articles, 4 book chapters, 15 monographs and edited collections, and 3 grants, among others (see Appendix A). (link Appendix A – pages 3-8 – as a PDF)

If the funding were increased by $10,000, OSU Libraries would be able to increase the individual funding cap to $2500, a level more commensurate with current travel costs, and to fund most, if not all, meritorious proposals. OSU Libraries would also commit to improving the marketing for the LRTG program to maintain the competitive nature of the application process (including creating a more compelling web presence); to encouraging applicants to demonstrate how their proposed research would impact students and/or the OSU community; and to reporting regularly and in detail to the Provost on the specific outcomes enabled by the awarded grant funds.

This analysis demonstrates well the successful impact this program has wielded in support of OSU’s commitment to academic excellence in research and teaching. Increased funding of the Library Research Travel Grant program also supports the University’s initiative to invest in our faculty in order to strengthen faculty research and scholarship and improve the teaching and learning environment at OSU.

Prepared by the Faculty Senate Library Committee, 2011
Appendix A
Library Research Travel Grant Program 2005-2010: Research Outcomes

Conference presentations and invited lectures:


Nabil Boudraa, talk on Kateb Yacine’s Nedjma as a founding text in Maghrebian Literature in "Relire les classiques africains" panel, North Eastern Modern Language Association (NeMLA) annual conference, New Brunswick, April 7-10, 2011.


Sebastian Heiduschke, OSU Center for the Humanities talk.

Janet Lee, 'Beyond courage and economic enlightenment': Australian Feminist Miles Franklin’s unpublished marriage protest stories," National Women’s Studies Association (NWSA) annual meetings, Denver, CO (November 2010).

Janet Lee, “‘Writing Red’: Miles Franklin's unpublished plays (Chicago, 1906-1915) NWSA annual meetings, Atlanta, GA (November, 2009).
Janet Lee, “Experts at the geography of hell: Domestic sites and sororal subversions among the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry in World War I.” NWSA annual meetings, Cincinnati, OH (June 2008).

Janet Lee, “Miles Franklin on American manhood and white slavery: The case of ‘Red Cross Nurse,’” Hawaii International Conference on the Arts and Humanities, Honolulu, Hawaii (January 2007).

Janet Lee, “Miles Franklin in Chicago, 1906-1915,” NWSA annual meetings, St. Charles, Ill (June 2007).


Janet Lee, “This was life!: Accidental modernism and inadvertent feminism in women’s stories of the Great War,” annual meetings of the Pacific Sociological Association, Pasadena (April 2003).


Janet Lee, “Biography at the Limits of Representation” annual meetings of the Pacific Sociological Association, Portland, OR (April 1999).

Rebecca Olson, "Heroic Tapestries and the Tudor Court," Renaissance Society of America Annual Meeting, March 2011.


Journal articles:


Janet Lee, “FANY ‘Other Spaces’: Toward an application of Foucault’s heterotopia as


Susan Shaw, “I Am Woman: Southern Baptists and Feminism,” *Baptist History & Heritage* (Spring 2010).


Book chapters:


Monographs and edited collections:


Sally Gallagher, Making Do in Damascus (forthcoming from Syracuse University Press)

Paul Kopperman, “Regimental Practice” by John Buchanan, M.D.: An Eighteenth-Century Medical Diary and Manual (forthcoming from Ashgate)

Janet Lee, Comrades and partners: The shared lives of Grace Hutchins and Anna Rochester (Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2000)


**Grants:**

Dahong Zhang, 2009-2011 (Principal Investigator), National Science Foundation, Dissecting Recruitment of Actin into the Contractile Ring, $220,000

Sebastian Heiduschke, L.L. Stewart Grant

Rebecca Olson, Renaissance Society of America Research Travel Grant (one of nine selected in a highly competitive, international contest)

**Other outcomes:**

Sebastian Heiduschke: brought an East German director and his film to Corvallis for two screenings at the Darkside Cinema.

Shelley Jordon: *Anita’s Journey*, a hand-painted animation based on her mother-in-law Anita Greenstein’s experience in hiding in Berlin during WWII.