Funding Alert Services

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- [SPIN](#) - SPIN allows you to create an account and then save funding searches and individual funding opportunities and choose to receive daily or weekly email updates on any new or updated opportunities.
- [Grants.gov](#) - Subscribe to receive notifications of new grant opportunity postings and updates on Grants.gov. Options include subscribing to all grant notices, selected notices based on specific criteria, or notices based on funding opportunity number.
- [The Foundation Center](#) (Candid) - The Foundation Center is a funding resource service for nonprofit agencies. Users can sign up to receive an RFP Bulletin, a weekly newsletter of recently announced Requests for Proposals from private, corporate, and government funding sources.
- [Zintellect](#) - This website provides listings of internships, experiential learning opportunities, academic fellowships and scholarships funded by government and private sector organizations. Visitors to the site may view available opportunities by selecting the Opportunity Catalog.
- [RTI University Scholars Program](#) - The RTI University Scholars Program is designed to drive growth, foster collaboration, build scientific stature, and develop opportunities for externally funded joint projects.
- [National Science Foundation](#) – When you sign up to receive updates from NSF, you will receive an email message each time new opportunities are added to the NSF website in the categories you select.
- [National Institutes of Health Listserv](#) - Receive weekly emails with the Current Weekly Table of Contents (TOC) from the NIH Guide to Grants and Contracts including direct links to all funding opportunities and notices published during the week.

SPIN Guide

[SPIN](#) is a robust funding opportunity database, containing over 40,000 opportunities from more than 10,000 sponsors that is available to all WCU faculty, staff, and students. With SPIN, users can save searches and opportunities, share opportunities with colleagues, and choose to receive email alerts when records are added or changed.

Here are some suggestions to get the most benefit from SPIN:

1. Take an active role in designing your SPIN funding searches. A SPIN funding search based on keywords that are too broad can generate numerous funding options, some of which may not be suitable for your funding needs. Searches can be refined by using specific keywords, sorting by the sponsor/agency type, specifying the geographical location, and selecting a funding level that best matches your project and needs.
2. Using search terms and keywords that are too specific can also yield disappointing results. The InfoEd Keyword Search contains a curated list of search terms that categorize funding opportunities based on the topic.

If you need additional help or would like to set up a training session for your department, please contact Samantha Ellithorpe at sellithorpe@wcu.edu or 828.227.3180.

Accessing SPIN

- Go to [myWCU](#)
- Select *Research Administration (InfoEd)* under My Apps
- In InfoEd, select *SPIN* located in the left-hand sidebar.

Searching for Funding Opportunities

Once you have gained access to SPIN, there are three separate search options for you to choose from: Basic Search, InfoEd Keyword Search, and Advanced Search. Each of these various search options can be accessed via the *Search* menu at the top left of the SPIN Home Page Header.

Text Search

This is the default search mode upon accessing SPIN. The Text Search is a way to search for programs using a simple word or term which is then run against the entire SPIN record, where every field is searched (Sponsor Name, Opportunity Title, Funding opportunity Number, CFDA Number, Synopsis, Eligibility, Keywords, etc.).

When Text Search is selected, a standard textbox appears where you can enter your search term(s) to perform a simple SPIN search by clicking *Locate Funding.*

The Text Search also has capabilities to build more complex searches by using the example inputs below:

Example Input	Description
Scientific research	Searches for records containing **scientific** and **research**. Inflectional forms of **science** and **research** are included. **AND** is assumed in this example.
Scientific or Research	Searches for records containing either **scientific** or **research**. Inflectional forms of **science** and **research** are included. The **OR** must be specified.
"Science research"	Wrapping terms in double quotations searches for records containing the phrase **science research**. Inflectional forms of **science** are included such that results include **science research** and **sciences research.**
Stem -cell	Inserting a minus symbol before a term will search for records containing **stem** and not **cell.**
Lake*	Appending an asterisk to a term invokes a wildcard search by searching for records containing **lake** and any suffix (e.g., lakes, Lakeland, lakeview). Note that * cannot be the first character of a search.
B?ll	A question mark ? serves as a wildcard substitute for a single character. Search for b?ll will return results for bell, ball, or bill.
B?ll "river basin" -Columbia	Complex searches combining features can be used as in this example to find results that include b?ll (bill, ball, bell...) AND the string **river basin** but will exclude opportunities containing the world **Columbia.**

InfoEd Keyword Search

The InfoEd Keyword Search operates in a similar manner to the Basic Search except you select from a curated list of keywords to perform your search instead of typing in arbitrary words or terms.

Click on the *Select Keywords* link to select terms from the keyword list using the Explorer or Searcher options. After selecting the terms you want, select *Save Selection and Continue*, which will close the popup and display the selected terms in the SPIN search box. Click *Locate Funding* to initiate the search. The selected keywords are being compared to the keyword terms associated with each funding opportunity rather than the full text of the opportunity.

Advanced Search

This customized search method allows you to tailor your search using advanced AND/OR branching to narrow down your search to retrieve more specific results. Please note that distinct fields generate AND queries while using the same field multiple times generates an OR query.

Public Searches

The Office of Research Administration has curated a list of topical funding searches that is available to all WCU Faculty, Staff and Students. Users can locate these Public Searches by clicking on *Public Searches* within the *Saved Searches* menu. Please note: these searches are broad, and you may want to focus your search.

Saving Searches and Opportunities

SPIN allows you to save your search queries and individual funding opportunities. Saving a search will allow you to review newly added or updated opportunities and set up funding email alerts to receive an email with those changes. You can also run the save search at any time or use it to create a similar search.

Email Alerts

If you choose to receive an email alert for a saved search query, SPIN will automatically provide a daily or weekly funding alert that identifies any newly added or updated opportunities that match your saved search query.

You can manage your Funding Email Alerts from the *Funding Alerts* tab.

Bookmarking Opportunities

From the Returned Results Screen, SPIN users can bookmark opportunities that are of particular interest to have quick access to them later. To bookmark a funding opportunity, select the + icon associated with the specific funding opportunity. A popup will open allowing you to organize the bookmarked opportunities into groups using names that you create. Users can then add to existing groups of bookmarks to organize similar bookmarked opportunities.

Once the bookmarks are created, users can utilize the *Bookmarks Menu* to access the marked opportunities.

Sharing/Exporting Opportunities

SPIN allows you to share individual funding opportunities with your colleagues by exporting the selected opportunities to Microsoft Excel or Word.

To use the export feature, check the box located next to the Bookmark + button and select Export on the top right corner. A new window will pop up, allowing you to select how you want the data to be exported. The exported opportunities will contain the following information:

- SPIN ID number
- Program title with a link to the funding opportunity
- Sponsor name
- Sponsor opportunity number
- Deadline date
- Funding amount

For more guidance, please contact Samantha Ellithorpe at sellithorpe@wcu.edu or 828.227.3180.