Grants.Gov Panel Discussion
Tuesday January 13, 2015

Panelists

- Jason Hitchcock; USDA-NIFA
- Bronda Harrison; EPA
- Jessie Floura; NIH
- Erin Nielsen, David Curran; NSF
- Ed Calimag; Grants.gov
- Debera Nixon; Duke Univ;

In February 2015 Grants.gov will begin to accept submissions that include the use of extended characters

- What will the impact be for agencies and applicants?

- For example, if the Title of an application contains the Greek symbol for Pi, how will it be displayed in the agency system?

- How will Pi be presented to a review panel?

- How does an applicant determine which characters a specific agency will accept?

Background - Grants.gov questions

1. What is driving this change?

2. Will there be any differences in how the special characters are handled in Adobe Forms vs. System-to-System applications?

3. What is the timeline for converting AT07 to support the use of UTF-8 in form fields?

4. What is the timeline for the Production move to accept the use of UTF-8 in form fields?

5. What UTF-8 characters will Grants.gov not accept? (Chinese + ?)

6. Will characters not accepted (Chinese logograms) be filtered out or will the application be rejected?

7. Where is there a resource see a precise list of what characters are going to be accepted?

Agency Questions

1. What impact will the inclusion of special characters have on your application process (back-end systems, review panel documents, post-award)?

2. Is your agency able to accept special characters if used in file names?

3. Are there any differences in how special characters are handled between Adobe Forms, FastLane and System-to-System or Research.gov?

4. Is your agency able to accept special characters in the text fields used in Adobe forms or System-to-System submissions?

5. If you are not currently set up to accept special characters what will happen when you try to process an application that uses special characters?

6. If you are not currently set up to accept special characters, do you have plans to accept them in the future? If so, what is your timeline?

7. Are there any areas of concern of which you are aware (for example, if your system currently matches on Project Title, what will you do when the Project Title now contains a special character that was not previously there)? If so, what provisions have/will you put in place to deal with it?

Applicant Questions

1. Does your system support the use of special characters?
2. If not, are you planning to build in support for the use of special characters?
3. If so, what is your timeline for doing so?
4. Do you plan to modify your code to allow the use of special characters for some agencies but not for others?
5. How much of a burden will that place on your development team?
6. What problems, if any, do you feel that this change might cause?

Faculty Questions

1. When will the use of special characters be bullet-proof?

2. What's allowed?

3. What can I not do?

4. What if something happens (e.g., application with special characters is rejected or text is illegible)?

5. What happens when we have to file reports? Is it going to accept my title with special characters?

6. What happens at NIH if they are matching on the Project Title with special characters?

Questions

Are most welcome!