# How (Not) to Apply for a Research Grant as an Early Career Librarian:
# (and what to do if you actually get it)

OLA Superconference 2019
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http://bit.ly/GrantOLA2019

# Who are we

Sajni Lacey | UBC Okanagan
Learning & Curriculum Support Librarian

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Data Services Librarian

# Some context:

- We applied for a grant we didn't think we would get and then we got it

# What we hope you get out of this:

- Know you aren't alone if you run into roadblocks!
- Things to consider before you apply
- Things that worked for us that may fit into your workflow
- That it doesn't hurt to try!

# So what the heck happened?

- Submitted abstract for special issue of publication
- CARL Practicing Librarian Grant
- Why not try?
- Quickly adapted our abstract into something…
- Declined article abstract for a special issue of a publication
  - …with an invitation to re-submit for a regular issue
  - FULL OF RELIEF
- Forgot we applied for grant
- Got Grant
- Success!
- Terror

# What is our project?

- Curriculum mapping two programs using the ACRL Framework for Information Literacy
- A department at UBCO
- A department at UNBC
  - (our institutions are small)
- Propose an instructional implementation plan at the program level based on the syllabi of courses taught
- Interview faculty to find out their perceptions of this process and plan (this is what the money was for that we got)

# Our big mistakes:

- Not reading the instructions thoroughly
- Not proof-reading thoroughly
- Not running this by our supervisors
- Not running this by our research offices
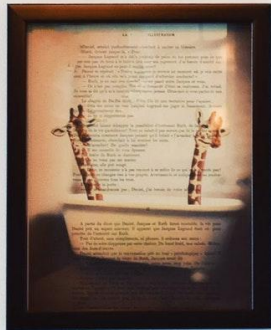- Not thinking or planning on actually doing the research

# Things we didn't consider before applying (that you should):

- How grant money actually gets distributed
- Who needs to be informed
- Project planning as part of application
    - Do I actually have time for this?
    - How will this fit into my daily, monthly, yearly workflow?
    - What resources do I need?
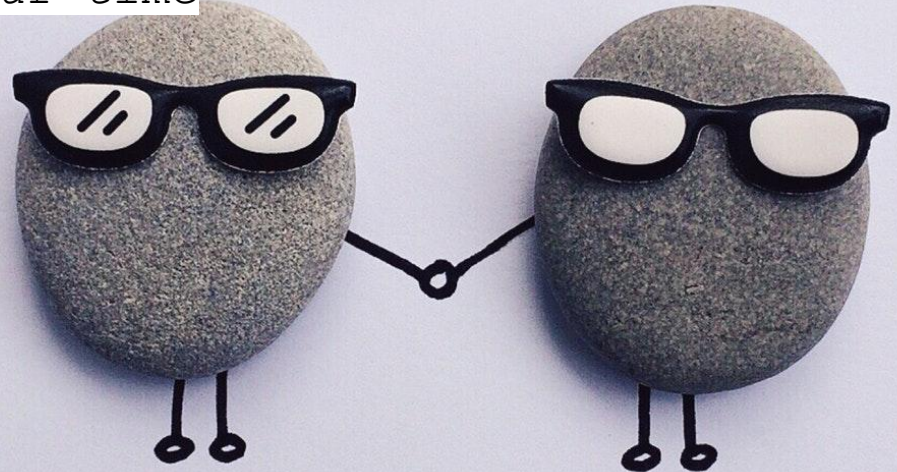    - Who do I need to notify?

# Things we did right once we got it:

- Pushed for our research to go through the REB.
- Started with a small project.
- Asked for help.

# So, what should you do?

- ❏ Pick a project/research that you are genuinely interested in
- ❏ Do some background reading
- ❏ Talk to your supervisor/manager
- ❏ Figure out if you need ethics and plan for the time that takes
- ❏ What resources, besides your time will you need?
  - ❏ Data collection + analysis
- ❏ How will you time-manage?
- ❏ CREATE A PROJECT PLAN
- ❏ Why are you doing this?

# Learning from our mistakes:

- I'm here with funding from another grant (from the UNBC Office of Research). What did I do this time?
  - Knew I would definitely be able
  - Completed my application early enough to qualify for pre-review! Our Research Officer found mistakes I had made and steps I had missed (because I didn't know they existed)

- I am in the process of applying for another grant for a practice based project. What did I do this time?
  - Partnered with experienced grant holders
  - Edited, edited, and edited again
  - Had my boss review the application before I submitted
  - Discussed with my supervision and co-applicants project management
  - Created a timeline for project completion that was manageable, with room for changes

# Where we are in the project & next steps:

- Got ethics
- Did the mapping
- Created a plan
- Hired a student
- Presented it to faculty
- Sajni + Susie> Done interviews
- Ethics renewal

Next:

- Transcripts
- Data analysis

# How this has moved us forward in other areas:

**Sajni:**

- See ourselves as researchers
- Have the university see us as researchers
- Feeling comfortable with ethics
- Curriculum mapping other programs
- Collaboration

**Susie:**

- See myself as a researcher
- Feeling comfortable with grant applications processes
- Curriculum mapping other programs
- Collaboration

But also how much did we really learn???

- LibParlor...

# Where to look for grants:

- Library associations (OLA, CARL)
- Provincial governments
- Institutional grants
- Tri-Agency grants
  - There are tons! Some are for research, but there are also specific grants for travel, events, and outreach initiatives

# Resources:

**Project planning:**

- [SmartSheets](SmartSheets)
- [ProjectManager](ProjectManager)
- [Office Excel Templates](Office Excel Templates)

**Ethics:**

- Research office
- Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans

# Reach out!

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Susie: susie.wilson@unbc.ca

Slides: http://bit.ly/GrantOLA2019

Photos: https://www.pexels.com

Read about our mistakes: http://bit.ly/libparlor35

**Thanks to CARL for the grant!!**