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From: **Daniel Feldman** <[drfeldman@lbl.gov](mailto:drfeldman@lbl.gov)>

Date: Wed, Feb 1, 2017 at 10:21 AM

Subject: Re: PIVot - Funding opportunity search tool available to LBL staff

To: Rosie Davis <[brdavis@lbl.gov](mailto:brdavis@lbl.gov)>

Hi Rosie.

Sorry for the delay. I looked at the PIVot tool over the weekend and forgot to actually send this email.

So first the positive:

The tool is pretty easy to use and relatively intuitive. It has a lot of specific information regarding grants and opportunities that might not be on the radar screen for us.

However, there is definitely missing information, and someone would, at the very least, need to bring additional grant opportunities into the system. Some of those opportunities are more obscure than just scraping ROSES. For example, the way that some of the DOE programs list opportunities is not especially centralized. The way it works at ASR comes immediately to mind. I have received several notifications for grant opportunities via email from them, and then there's a website link.

If we move forward with PIVot, I think it would be warranted to consider the costs of having an administrative point of contact to make sure that it is working properly, that grant opportunities are posted there, and that our profiles are relatively up-to-date on there.

Building our own tool would take a long time, require lots of debugging, and may be quite expensive relative to the license for PIVot. But given the heterogeneous nature of grants, having a point-person for our grants tool may be warranted.

Cheers,  
Dan

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From: **Travis O'Brien** <[taobrien@lbl.gov](mailto:taobrien@lbl.gov)>

Date: Fri, Feb 3, 2017 at 12:00 PM

Subject: Re: Fwd: PIVot - Funding opportunity search tool available to LBL staff

To: Rosie Davis <[brdavis@lbl.gov](mailto:brdavis@lbl.gov)>

Hi Rosie,

I've just gone through PIVOT and I have some initial impressions. My basic impression is that PIVOT is not quite what we are looking for, although it could suffice for now.

The good:

- On first logging in and 'claiming my profile' (they had me--and all other EESA researchers--listed as part of the Climate Sciences Dept. Creepy.), they immediately had a large list of funding opportunities that are relevant to myself and others in CESD.
- They have quite a bit of information about each FOA, including eligibility requirements, general funding amounts (\*see note in 'The bad' below), contact information, etc.; enough information to quickly determine whether an FOA is relevant and to follow up if so

The bad:

- This is a flood of information and it appears difficult to tone it down: there appears to be a way to do a custom search that might filter out things like NSF FOAs, but it looks like there is a learning curve to doing that. One might use the help pages to learn, but...
- The PIVOT help page needs some help...simply going to the 'Getting Started' page under the help brings up a page with lots of broken image links: not so useful
- Not all relevant FOA's come up, even though it looks like they should based on keywords. The worst offense is that the recent SciDAC RFPs do not show up in the default search, though PIVOT does have information on it ([http://pivot.cos.com/funding\\_opps/170638](http://pivot.cos.com/funding_opps/170638))
- The information in some RFPs may be inaccurate: the SciDAC one contains the wrong program manager contact information...not great
- \*Funding amounts are not immediately obvious for some of the most relevant RFPs (i.e., NASA ROSES)

The lacking wrt. the proposed HyperArts tool:

- No ability to create custom RFPs (i.e., for known RFPs that aren't yet announced, but for which we have solid information...like SciDAC was from June-Dec last year)
- No ability to comment on RFPs
- No ability to tag RFPs (not in the HyperArts SOW, but would be useful for categorizing FOAs/RFPs by CESD program)
- No ability to 'hide' grants that are deemed irrelevant or not of interest

If HyperArts could somehow make a tool that leverages the information in PIVOT, that would be excellent: PIVOT for example has grant information for some rather large non-profits that could be relevant to us (which I'd never heard of nor would have known to look for).

That said, I think we should have a broader discussion about whether PIVOT might serve our needs despite the noted deficiencies and generally whether the potential added benefits of the HyperArts tool would be worth \$30K.

-Travis-