

## SOURCES OF INFORMATION ABOUT RESEARCH GRANTS AMONG AFRICAN SCHOLARS

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**Objective:** Obtaining research grants enables scholars to carry out valuable and innovative research. The current work sought to understand the sources through which African scholars access information about research grants.

**Methods:** A survey was carried out by the African Science Frontiers Initiatives as part of its research programs. Data was collected from scholars in various institutions, disciplines, and career stages across Africa. Data collected were analyzed using SPSS.

**Results:** A total of 170 scholars distributed across Southern Africa (9.4%), North-East Africa (32.4%), and West-Central Africa (58.2%) responded to the survey. Most respondents were males (58.8%), 63.5% were ≥ 40 years, and 44.1% had a PhD/Doctorate. Majority got information from friends (61.2%), 38.8% from their institutions, and 21.8% from funders' newsletters. Other information sources are: other institutions (16.5%), journals in scholars' fields (15.3%), newspapers (10.6%), and sources not listed (20.6%). Information sources differed by respondents' age, educational level, discipline and positions currently held. Scholars aged ≥ 40 years (versus ≤ 40 years), PhD/Doctorate holders (versus No-PhD/Doctorate), and professors (versus Non-professors) were more likely to get information through their institutions. Respondents with a PhD/Doctorate and professors were more likely to get information from journals in their disciplines. Those with PhD/Doctorate were more likely to get information from funders' newsletters. Respondents' from the physical/technological/other disciplines were more likely to obtain information from sources other than those listed.

**Conclusions:** African scholars obtain grant information from various sources, with more experienced ones getting information from professional outlets more often than younger researchers. Networking and institutional support can enhance the chances of obtaining grant information.

**Citation:** Oyedele et al. ASFI Annual Conference and Boot Camp, 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> November 2023



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