Funding Content Scope and Selection Procedure

Overview

Elsevier's funding content database reflects the vast research and development (R&D) funding landscape. The database is a comprehensive collection of data on funders, funding opportunities, and awarded grants, drawn from a wide range of governmental and private sources from across the globe. Our extensive (comprehensive) funding content supports a broad range of internal and external use cases. For example, it enables discovery of funding opportunities by research areas worldwide, helps users make informed decisions, allows to place active funding opportunities into context of previous awards, enables insight into research outcomes of funded research, etc.

This document describes the funding content scope of Elsevier funding database, requirements to data, and the process of handling funder coverage requests.

Contents

Introduction

The purpose of the funding content we collect is to serve the needs of multiple Elsevier funding data-consuming products through a **comprehensive** and **complete** research funding database in **selected** markets. Requests for coverage may include all funding data: funders, opportunities, awards and related data (research or scholarly output: research articles, patents, research data, or part of it.)

Funding data is used in various products across Elsevier, and externally, like in [CHORUS](#) and [Crossref](#). To support open science initiative, Elsevier owns, maintains and donates the funder standard taxonomy list to **Crossref** monthly, which and can be accessed as Crossref [Funder Registry](#).

Our procedure collects **opportunities** data to ensure that our products provide researchers and research office representatives with a consolidated, up-to-date view of the funding sources currently available to finance research-related activities. We also capture **awards** of selected funders from selected sources to ensure our products have a complete and comprehensive data repository for customers to garner insights into already funded research and research output. Based on product use cases, the following data set combinations per funder are possible: full awards and opportunities data set, opportunities only, awards only (not as common).

The selection of a funder and its data sets for the funding database is defined by strategic relevance to the product, and it does not exclude any funder in particular, as long as it is in scope. For funding content to be considered for coverage, general and specific requirements to funding data sets and formats apply.

Glossary

Terminology used in the context of research and development funding.

Funder is an organization that provides funds for scientific research.
Synonyms: funding body, funding agency, funding organization, etc.

Funding opportunity is a public call or announcement inviting a research and development funding application or proposal. It usually results in one or more awards.
Synonyms: grant opportunity, request for proposals, request for applications, program announcement.
USA specific: a funding opportunity announcement (FOA) is a notice in Grants.gov of a federal grant funding opportunity.

Award is a monetary or non-monetary sponsorship to conduct scientific research or related research or research training activities.
Synonyms: grant, awarded grant, project, sponsored project.

Funding data is understood as funding body, opportunity, award, and scholarly output information.

Structured source is the source in which funding data resides within a fixed field within a record or file, such as database, spreadsheet, online structured html, or API.

Research data [refers](#) to the results of observations or experimentation that validate research findings. Research data can include raw or processed data files, software, code, models, algorithms, protocols, methods and other useful materials related to the research project.

Synonyms: research dataset, dataset.

Research and development is the collection of efforts directed toward gaining greater knowledge or understanding and applying knowledge toward the production of useful materials, devices, and methods. R&D investments can be characterized as basic research, applied research, development, R&D equipment, or R&D facilities. 'Development' in this context is understood as 'experimental development', which is creative and systematic work, drawing on knowledge gained from research and practical experience, and is directed at producing new products or processes or improving existing products or processes. Like research, experimental development will result in gaining additional knowledge.

Research outcome is the (end) result of conducting research on a particular topic, such as a research article, patent, data and research materials, etc. It can also include Scholarly output as defined in [Snowball Metrics](#) used in Elsevier products.

Funding Content Scope

To ensure highly relevant funding information for Elsevier funding data-consuming products, as well as for the research community using Elsevier products, we have defined the scope of the funding content which we will collect, store, maintain, and enrich in the funding database.

Category	Scope
Purpose of funding	Funding for research and development (R&D) in all research areas, including arts and humanities, at a graduate level and higher, as well as community development-related activities.
Geographical scope	We focus on, but are not limited to, funding relevant to the international audience. We will expand to covering more local funding in the future. While we aim at the global coverage of R&D related funding, our geographical funding content scope is driven by the market and product-specific needs, which could alter depending on the product strategic development. Our current focus is Europe, UK, USA, Australia, Canada, as well as in other English-speaking research markets. We will be looking to expanding our focus to Japan, Germany, and China.
Funder	We cover funding from any government, public or private authority or organization, provided it has a stable funding flow, and falls within the relevant geographical scope.
Funding content types	Funder will be considered in scope, if data sets of one or more below listed content types is available:

	• funding opportunities • awarded grants • research outcome (journal article, patent, research data)
Funded activities	Funding organizations provide funding for a variety of activities. All funding types that intend to finance R&D activities are in scope. Examples of funding types include, but are not limited to: • research grants • collaborative/co-operative agreements • fellowship and career development grants • travel grants to scientific conferences (incl. conference developing and hosting) • research by PhD or Master • grants to build community or network for a specific research area • funding for equipment and facilities Funding for purposes other than R&D related activities, i.e. funding for completing undergraduate education, living costs during studies, loans, etc., is out of scope. **Disclaimer:** Non-monetary recognition awards and prizes for accomplishments are out of scope. Monetary prizes that require application or nomination might be captured, if they are relevant to the products.
Funding recipients	Recipients of an R&D funding can be: • Individual researchers at postgraduate level and higher • Organizations
Funding content time frame	**Opportunities:** At the moment of funder inclusion into the database we will start capture all in scope currently open opportunities, going forward. Opportunity archives or expired opportunities will not be captured. Opportunities captured as active in the past, but later expired, will be kept in the database for tracking and analytics purposes. **Awarded grants:** To ensure meaningful analytics, when a funding body is selected for coverage, we will capture its awarded grants from 2009 onwards upon availability of the data.

Funding Content Selection Criteria

Selection of funding content is defined by Elsevier, but we are also open to feedback from the end users of our products (institutions, researchers, research administrators, etc.). Whether a funder and its opportunities and/or awards are considered to be in scope depends on the following factors:

- Minimum objective criteria
- Data requirements
- Prioritization

Minimum objective criteria

To be considered for inclusion in the Elsevier funding database, funding content:

- information about a funder and its data sets should be available online in a machine-readable format
- information should be relevant for and readable to the international audience: be available in Roman script (or its substantial portion should be translated into a language with Roman script), and opportunity and/or award title and description should be available in English
- should be maintained and up-to-date with regular update cycles
- satisfy minimum required data fields *as per* **Data Requirements**
- should be freely available, or permission from the data owner for data usage for commercial purposes should be explicit, or provided while suggesting a funder.

Data requirements

For funding content data sets of a suggested funder to be used in our products, they need to contain certain minimum information, listed in the below table:

Opportunity	- Opportunity URL - Title and short description (in English) - Funding type (research grant, individual fellowship, etc.), US: funding instrument/mechanism - Applicant eligibility criteria, incl. limited submission, if available - Application instructions, incl. due dates, if available - Funded research area(s), incl. subject area list - Expected funding amount, if available - Unique call for application identifier at funder, if available - Applicability to clinical research, if it is relevant
Awarded grant	- Title and short description (in English) - Funding type (research grant, individual fellowship, etc.), US: funding instrument/mechanism, if available - Start date* or award notice date - Information about recipient(s) - Funded research area(s), incl. subject area list - Awarded amount and currency - Unique identifier at funder, if available

Research outcome**	• Research article: doi, MEDLINE, PubMed ID, PubMed Central (PMC) ID • Patent: patent number • Research data: dataset depending on research type

Note: for certain use cases within products the minimum data requirements may not apply.
*Start and/or end date or the fiscal year of an awarded grant will be captured the way it is published on the data source.
**Research outcome might not yet be part of regular funding datasets, therefore, is optional.

Elsevier highly prefers data sources that are well structured and suitable for efficient data capture. Structured data sources include: extractable xml, csv, xls, json files, APIs, or structured html data. Direct feed of data from funder that satisfies above listed requirements is also an option.

Prioritization

The strategic importance of an individual funder is defined by Elsevier. Therefore, Elsevier reserves the right to not select a funder if it is not among the product priorities or aligned with market needs, even though a funder in question meets all above-mentioned criteria: funding content scope, minimum objective criteria, and data requirements.

Selection Process and Timelines

Evaluation and selection of funders and their content for the funding database is performed by the **Elsevier Internal Board of Experts**, who bring extensive knowledge of the R&D funding landscape across the world, and experience in working with and for funding agencies.

Evaluation and Selection

Funders and their content data sets can be suggested for the funding database on a continuous basis, but the Elsevier Internal Board of Experts will evaluate and select funders for addition on quarterly basis. Decisions are expected to be made as soon as possible but no later than within the first month of next consecutive quarter. Data is expected to be delivered to the products by the end of the quarter in which the decision was made.

Example timeline:
- Funding body suggested for coverage during Q1 (1st Jan till 31st of March)
- Elsevier Internal Board of Experts starts evaluation process in Q2 (i.e., on the 1st of April:
  - Analyses information and data provided
  - Requests additional information from a suggestor, if needed
  - Takes a decision in Q2 (i.e., on the 30th of April) and communicates the selection results to a suggestor
- Funding data is collected and is available in our database before the end of Q2.

How to Suggest a Funder

Anyone can suggest a funding organization for coverage. Before suggesting a funder, please browse your funder name on Mendeley Funding to make sure it is not yet covered in our database.

Mendeley Funding is an easy-to-browse discovery tool containing public and freely available funder and funding data, and can be accessed through creating a free online login account.

We differentiate between suggesting a new funder, and providing feedback on a funder already covered in the database:

- **To suggest a new funder** for our database, please follow these steps:
    - Email: Funding_Content@elsevier.com and enter "**New Funder**" in the subject line
    - Copy / Paste the following list into your email, populating the information on the suggested funder:
        - Funder Name
        - Funder Country
        - Funder URL
        - Suggested content: Opportunities
        - Content dataset URL
        - Suggested content: Awards
        - Content dataset URL
        - Comments, if any

- **To provide feedback regarding a funder already covered**, please follow these steps:
    - Email: Funding_Content@elsevier.com and enter "**Update Funder**" in the subject line
    - Copy / Paste the following list into your email, populating the information on the funder in question:
        - Funder Name
        - Funder Country
        - Funder URL
        - Comments