

LINKAGE PROJECT GRANTS ALERT 3: ROUND 2 2010

TOPICS COVERED

1. ARC advice regarding improvements to the Research Management System (RMS)
2. Linkage Project Alert 1 & 2 Reminder

1. Improvements to RMS, Scheduled RMS Outages and the RMS Help Desk

Since the Research Management System (RMS) opened in March this year, the ARC has been improving and extending RMS functionality. The most significant changes are listed below.

Performance and timeout:

- response times have been improved across all areas of RMS;
- performance in specific areas, including the draft proposal budget, has been improved;
- timeout is now based on keyboard/mouse activity rather than server activity (i.e. as long as the user is working in RMS, even if they haven't saved, the session will remain active); and
- a timeout warning has been added (currently advises user 15 minutes prior to timeout, this will be improved to a countdown in future releases)—please note this warning is only visible while the user is in RMS, if the user swaps to another application he/she will not see the warning until he/she swaps back to RMS.

Access control and account management:

- Research Office (RO) staff have been provided with the same access to a draft proposal as the Proposal Owner—that is, RO staff can now transfer ownership, edit, and submit draft proposals (those with their organisation as the administering organisation only) on behalf of researchers; and
- a help desk has been established (operating in AEST business hours) to assist users with account setup (further information is below).

Draft proposal creation/edit:

- the drop down list in Create Draft Proposal has been expanded to display the full name of a scheme round rather than short name (please note, the short name is used everywhere else);
- functionality to allow re-ordering of person participants on the Draft Proposal Summary has been added (i.e. users can now use the up and down arrows on the person participant summary table, this also changes the order in the form parts below);
- an automatic 'save on open' function has been added to form parts which contain person data populated from Person Details, and a warning next to the submit button has been added advising users to check the form prior to submission;

- for the Research Support Questions (Parts H1 and H2) applicants are required to upload a PDF of the details instead of directly entering the data into RMS; and
- Socio Economic Objectives (SEO) codes have been updated to the 2008 version of the codes (which do not have the generic description of 'other' at the 6 digit level).

Proposal Budget:

- freeze panes have been added so that budget row and column headers remain visible at all times (please note that this works best in IE7 or Firefox);
- the screen size has been increased so that more columns are visible (i.e. less scrolling);
- some performance improvements have been made to reduce the time required to input and save data;
- 'unspecified' budget items now only display where necessary in the budget (not in each budget category); and
- in the generated PDF, budget rows that have zero dollars allocated will now not print.

Please note: further improvements to the proposal budget are being developed

PDF upload and generation:

- the uploaded PDF name and upload date is now displayed, as well as the ability to open uploaded PDFs from the RMS form;
- if a PDF has not been attached (or uploaded) for a question in RMS a message will be provided in the generated proposal PDF;
- if RMS cannot locate an uploaded PDF for a question, a message will be provided in the generated proposal PDF;
- known PDF generation failure issues have been resolved
- the number of new pages for uploaded PDFs and certification text has been reduced; and
- PDF generation emails are now only sent upon successful completion of a user requested PDF.

Proposal Certification and Submission:

- a warning to advise applicants to open and check form parts to ensure all data is populated from personal details has been added; and
- batch submission functionality has been added—each proposal must be individually certified, but RO can submit in batches following individual certification. The ARC recommends submitting a page of proposals (i.e. as displayed in RMS) at a time.

Reports:

- three CSV extracts have been made available directly from RMS (please note that the format may change over time, and that we are still making performance improvements). (See reports specification below for further information).

Planned improvements prior to the upcoming round of Discovery Projects:

- further revision and simplification of the proposal budget;
- the enabling of draft proposals to be deleted by proposal owner (the delete function will hide from view rather than actually delete);
- the inclusion Field of Research (FOR) and SEO codes as well as descriptions in online and PDF forms; and
- the development of video tutorials.

Reports specification

Specification documentation for the three CSV reports available from RMS is currently being finalised for distribution. If you would like a copy of the specifications please send a request via email to rms@arc.gov.au and we will send you the specifications by email as soon as they are completed.

Scheduled RMS maintenance outages and restarts

If required, standard maintenance outages will be scheduled for Wednesday evenings between approximately 7 pm and 9 pm (AEDT).

RMS is restarted twice a day at 4 am and 6 pm (AEDT) to assist with system responsiveness. During the restarts, RMS is unavailable for approximately fifteen minutes.

RMS Help

For assistance with RMS, participants should click on the on-line help link (top left of RMS screen) or contact their organisation's Research Office in the first instance.

If further assistance is required please contact the RMS Help Desk via an email (describing your problem and providing your RMS details) to rms@arc.gov.au or telephone (02) 6287 6789.

Please note that the RMS Help Desk is staffed between 9 am and 5 pm (AEDT), Monday to Friday. For after hours queries please send an email to rms@arc.gov.au and the ARC will respond to your email as soon as possible.

2. Linkage Project Alert 1 & 2 Reminder

If you missed the first and second Linkage Project alert, a copy is available on the GMO website at http://www.gmo.unsw.edu.au/ApplyingForFunds/ARC/Linkage_10_R1.html.

ANY OTHER QUESTIONS?

Email mygrants.gmo@unsw.edu.au

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