



Research Expertise and Infrastructure Database to be Launched

Database to facilitate interdisciplinary research, industry collaborations

Late in January 2008, the Office of Research Administration (ORA) will conduct a faculty research survey to identify current fields of inquiry, research infrastructure and instrumentation; instrumentation needed but not currently available; and areas of potential collaborations. Following suggestions by a number of research faculty, the purpose of this survey is to inventory research expertise on campus, identify potential synergies and better support faculty and graduate student research. In addition, the results of this survey will help facilitate bringing UMSL research to market so it can benefit people in our community and beyond.

The survey will collect information for an online database searchable by UMSL faculty, graduate students, staff and industry representatives to foster research collaborations.

Ultimately, this process will:

- Encourage interdisciplinary research and increase external grant funding by providing a tool for faculty, etc., to find the expertise and instrumentation needed for various grants,
- Provide a resource for students and junior faculty to find faculty members willing to mentor them,
- Provide a way for the University and specific departments to determine what instrumentation and related expertise exists and what is needed, and
- Encourage and facilitate faculty collaboration with industry.

Steps:

- In late January, the ORA will send a link to the survey to faculty and staff.
- Faculty and staff researchers are asked to log into their own "Researcher Profile" and complete a brief survey. Answers can be modified and resubmitted at any time.
- Once the information is saved, it becomes part of a database hosted by the ORA.
- If the user checks the box allowing certain information to be published online, that information will become part of a searchable database on the ORA web site.
 - Please note that some information provided in the survey will NOT be included in the online database no matter what. (Answers to the survey questions in RED type will NOT be included.)
- The ORA will send the link out each semester in order to reach new faculty and staff and to remind others to update their information if needed.

We welcome your comments and questions before the survey is launched. Please direct all comments to Tamara Wilgers at wilgerst@umsl.edu.