

Budget Justification

Senior Personnel

Both salaries are based on 1/9th of nine-month salary and assume a 5% annual increase over current salaries. The budget provides for 1 month of summer support for 2001 and 2002. In addition to the funded research, Schrodt and Gerner will be spending significant amounts of time on this project during the academic year.

Graduate Students

The graduate research assistant will be employed by the project at a 50% FTE level during the Fall 2001 and Spring 2002 semesters, and for two months during both summers. The salary is based on a total of 30 bi-weekly pay periods, and provides compensation consistent with that of a third-year graduate teaching assistant. The graduate student will be tasked with cross-checking and validating the machine coded data, doing the downloading and transformations of the various data sets, and running some statistical analyses. We have at least three students currently in the program who are familiar with TABARI and with event data analysis and could potentially serve in this position.

Undergraduate Assistants

The funds provide for 1320 hours of work—2 students for 44 weeks at 15 hours per week—for undergraduate student coders who will be trained in dictionary development. These students will be recruited from the University of Kansas Honors Program, an approach that we have found very effective in past research projects. During the Spring 2001 semester, we can utilize Erin Simpson, a current employee of the department who has worked for the past year on the TABARI dictionary development and already knows the system thoroughly. Simpson can train additional students under the supervision of Gerner and the graduate assistant we will have working in Spring 2001 under funding from the University of Kansas General Research Fund. This will carry us into the 2001-02 academic year. If the project is funded, we will apply for additional support for undergraduates under the NSF “Research Experiences for Undergraduates” program. If such funds are available, we will hire additional honors students with that money.

Based on past experience, the budgeted salary is sufficient to attract qualified students. The pool of work-study students at the University of Kansas is quite small because of the low tuition and we've found that we usually need to offer a full, rather than work-study, wage.

C. Fringe Benefits

The University of Kansas fringe benefit rate is 28% for professional salaries and 4% for graduate students working 75% time or less and for all undergraduate students.

E. Travel

The budget for domestic travel provides \$2000 total supplementary funding for the PIs to travel to conferences where we will present reports on the project; these will probably be the American Political Science Association (2001, 2002) and the International Studies Association (2002). We expect to supplement these funds with requests for University of Kansas academic travel support (\$625 per faculty per year). We have also budgeted an additional \$1000 to provide student travel support so that the graduate student and one of the undergraduate assistants can attend at least one of the conferences; these funds will also be supplemented by the University of Kansas.

G.1. Materials and Supplies

Research Material and Supplies

This category covers expendable materials such as computer disks, CD-R blanks, Zip disks, inkjet cartridges, paper, and photocopying of coding manuals and other internal documents.

Computers

We have requested funds for the acquisition a computer to be used by the graduate student on the project; this machine will have sufficient memory and disk capacity that it will be able to run all of the statistical packages we will be using. Computers for the PIs and the undergraduate coders, as well as peripherals and software, can be provided from equipment purchased earlier through NSF funding and through the University of Kansas. (Note that under the new NSF accounting rules, anything under \$5000 is in the category of “expendable supplies” rather than “equipment.”)

Software

The software budget covers the acquisition of specialized statistical software that is not currently available at the University of Kansas. It also provides for acquisition of basic statistical software and basic utility software (e.g. word processing, communications and backup) for the graduate student computer. Most of this software is available through university site licenses at relatively low cost; we expect to be able to equip the graduate student’s machine for around \$500.

G.4. Computer Services

This item covers the cost of the Reuters Business Briefing service for 18 months. At the present time, Reuters Business Briefing is the only available source of archived Reuters reports: Reuters discontinued providing this service to NEXIS in June 1997 and has twice delayed making the archived reports available on the Dow-Jones/Factiva service. \$475 is the cost for the minimal monthly service of 10 hours per month. Based on past experience, this will allow the downloading of about 10,000 stories per month, which will be sufficient over the course of the grant to update all of our existing data sets and acquire some new sets as well.

G.6. Other Direct Costs

Tuition

This provides for two semesters of in-state tuition for the graduate research assistant. All GRAs pay tuition at the in-state rate. The University of Kansas does not provide tuition waivers for GRAs.

I. Indirect Costs

Indirect costs are computed at 45.5% of total direct costs excluding tuition.