

Defining a portfolio (Grants): Some questions to ask.

Things to consider	Questions to ask	Decision
Purpose of the analysis?	The purpose of the analysis will define the type of data you will need to collect. Examples of question are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How much is being spent? - Is there overlap between the research I'm funding and another Agency/IC/PO? - Who is working with who? Who is being funded by who? - What is the impact of the research we are funding? 	
Audience?	Internal or external audience? Publicly available data for funded grants only is available in RePORTER. Will the audience want detail? Or high level key messages?	
What measure are you interested in?	Grants? Publications? PIs? Applications? Answers will affect the format of the required dataset e.g. if interested in all awards you may have multiple rows for each core project number, if interested in individual PIs, applications with multiple PIs may appear several times in the dataset.	
Time period	Which years? Fiscal year vs calendar year. Grant year or publication year? Does the time period allow time for outputs from research e.g. lag from grant award date to publication dates	
Agency/IC	NIH only? All ICs? Or specific ICs? Admin / Primary IC or secondary / dual IC?	
Activity Code	Just R01s? All R grants? RPGs? Training grants?	
Application type	Just new applications (Type 1s)? Type 2s? For content analysis you may wish to exclude applications with duplicated text, but for other analyses you may wish to include all applications.	
Grants / Applications	Are you interested in applications? Or the core grants*? For example publications in <i>iSearch</i> are linked to Core Grant numbers not ApplIDs**, so counting multiple ApplIDs from the same core project will result in double counting.	
Project Status	Do you want awarded applications only or are you also interested in unfunded applications? Details of unfunded applications are only available for NIH and other HHS agencies.	
Competing / non-competing	Are you just interested in the initial grant application? Or grants for non-competing continuation of an existing award?	
Sub-projects	Include these? Or exclude them? For example don't double count money awarded to sub-projects.	
Contracts	Just research grants? Or contracts as well?	
Extramural / Intramural	One or both? All research in a topic area?	

Animal / human subjects	Are you interested in these? It may be possible to use the field to narrow down searches.	
Institutions	Include foreign applications / institutions?	
Comparison groups	Do you need to compare against a control group? Similar numbers of grants / types of grants?	

*Click [here](#) for more information about the difference between application and core grant

**Click [here](#) to read more about NIH linkages between grants and publications

Defining a portfolio (Publications): Some questions to ask.

Things to consider	Questions to ask	Decision
What measure are you interested in?	Publications? Authors? Grants?	
Time period	Publication year? Or Fiscal year? Or grant years? Does the time period allow time for outputs from research e.g. lag from grant award date to publication dates	
Agency/IC	Publications linked to NIH grants? Or all publications?	
Article type	Only include iCite article types? Review articles?	
Filters?	Number of citations? High RCR papers?	
Outcomes?	Publications linked to Clinical Trials or Guidelines?	
Comparison groups	Do you need to compare against a control group? Similar numbers of grants / types of grants?	

Text Analysis / Clustering: Once a portfolio is defined, where will the required information be?

Grants	• Title	
	• Abstract	
	• Specific Aims	
	• Research Strategy	
	• Progress Report	
	• Biosketches	
	• Are there any other useful sections of the Grant text? E.g. when looking at training grants we used program plan and background.	

Publications	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Title	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Abstract	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Are there any other useful sections?	