

Arts Council Nets Faster Funding Figures

Contributed by Campuspr Midlands
Thursday, 26 November 2009

A new online survey set up by Arts Council England has made it faster and easier for organisations who receive funding to submit their annual figures.

Developed with the market research agency ORC International, the Arts Council web application has seen 99% of organisations complete their submission within six weeks, compared to 85% in six months in previous years.

The submission process, which previously was completed on an Excel spreadsheet consisting of nearly 1,000 data points, had been revamped last year after ORC International was appointed by the Arts Council to process their annual data.

This year Arts Council England decided to set up an online tool to increase the response rate, reduce the amount of manual data processing and error checking that was required and create a more user-friendly process.

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ORC International worked closely with Arts Council England on the data collection application which enables organisations to securely work on their submission, and then finish it at a later date.

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Mike Tickner from ORC International said: "Our clients are increasingly finding that online methods take away from the drudgery of trawling through spreadsheets, and provide swifter, more accurate resultsâ€•

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Arts Council England can also keep track of progress using administration pages, which allows them to delve deeper into each individual submission.

In addition to significantly increasing response rates and speeding up the timeframe, for the first time Arts Council England released the annual submission data as Official Statistics. Â

Arts Council England supports over 800 organisations every year, ranging from the Royal Shakespeare Company to individual artists, who are all required to submit yearly activity data.

Kelly Pettitt, Senior officer for RFO Data and Reporting, Arts Council England said, "The system that ORC International has devised for us has made a huge difference to the way we manage data and it has enabled us to make the figures submitted to us universally available via our website.â€•

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25 November 2009