

Colleagues,
We are pleased to share the first installment of the Research.gov Innovator with you. We developed this newsletter in response to requests from members of the research community who want to stay up-to-date on the Research.gov initiative. The *Innovator* will be issued quarterly and will keep you and your organization apprised of the latest Research.gov news and updates. We hope you find our inaugural issue interesting and informative!

Regards,

The Research.gov Team

Research.gov is an exciting initiative that enables organizations and individuals to access streamlined research-focused grants management services and other resources for multiple federal agencies in one location.

Led by the National Science Foundation (NSF), Research.gov is a modernization of FastLane that provides a menu of services tailored to meeting the unique needs of the research community. In addition to NSF, Research.gov partners include the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the Department of Defense (DoD) research components, and USDA's Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (USDA/CSREES). These agency partners choose which Research.gov services to offer their users.

Check application status for NSF, DoD/ARO, and USDA/CSREES in one location!

Research.gov recently released its first service in partnership with the Department of Defense (DoD): Grants Application Status for the Army Research Office (DoD/ARO). For the first time, the research community can check the up-to-date status of applications (extramural proposals) submitted to DoD/ARO online. Additionally, the community can use Research.gov to check the status of applications submitted to DoD/ARO, the National Science Foundation (NSF), and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (USDA/CSREES) in a single location.

Research.gov's Grants Application Status service has already made a positive impact on the community. As one user remarked, **"I love the ability to track the progress of the proposal."**

Grants Application Status is a service to increase the community's access to information by allowing Institutional Business Offices and Principal Investigators to check the status of applications submitted to NSF, USDA/CSREES, and DoD/ARO. Grants Application Status is now available for organizations submitting to these agencies. ★

Research Spending and Results: Increasing Transparency for NSF and now NASA!

Legislators and the public are demanding increased transparency regarding how federal research dollars are being spent. NSF and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) responded to this call when Research.gov released NASA grant award information through the Research Spending and Results service on Research.gov.

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Samantha Hunter, a member of the Research.gov team, provides Lillie Ryans-Culclager, of Stanford University, with an overview of Research.gov.



Grantees Embrace Research.gov at NCURA Annual Conference

The Research.gov team spread the word about Research.gov at this year's annual National Council for University Research Administrators (NCURA) meeting, held from November 2-6, 2008, in Washington, DC.

directly with researchers and hear first-hand about the community's experience using Research.gov. Feedback from outreach activities is used to guide the future direction of the site, and we were excited to meet and chat with community

The NCURA Conference was a valuable opportunity to hear first-hand about the community's experience using Research.gov.

What is NCURA?

NCURA is a national research organization whose members are involved in the administration of grants and sponsored programs at colleges, universities, and teaching hospitals. The 2008 conference was attended by over 2,500 NCURA members and featured workshops, federal grants management updates, and an exhibition featuring new grants initiatives, programs, and tools.

Why Did Research.gov Attend?

The NCURA Conference was a valuable opportunity for the Research.gov team to interact

members during the conference. Research.gov's presence at NCURA included an exhibit booth, participation on multiple panel discussions, and an in-depth site demo during NSF Day, a full-day workshop for NSF grantees.

The Booth

Research.gov joined a variety of exhibitors at the trade show. The booth was manned by Research.gov representatives, who answered questions and provided booth visitors one-on-one demos of the Research.gov site. Visitors were able to pick up a fact sheet about the overall initiative, detailed

fact sheets for each of Research.gov's premiere services, and a demo CD.

The Panel Discussions

Research.gov was also well-represented during the federal panel discussions. Andrea Norris, NSF's Deputy CIO, represented Research.gov on the Federal grants panel led by NSF's Mary Santonastasso. Mike Howe, from NSF's Division of Financial Management, led a discussion on the Federal Financial Report (FFR) and provided attendees with an overview of Research.gov's new FFR service.

The NSF Day Demo

On the final day of the NCURA conference, NSF held a special day-long "NSF Day" session to provide NSF grantees with important updates. Attendees were treated to an in-depth demo of the Research.gov site, including the FFR and Research Spending and Results services.

Attendees Express Excitement for Research.gov

NCURA attendees were excited about the prospect of using Research.gov. They expressed their enthusiasm for being able to use services modeled after NSF's widely-used FastLane system for multiple research agencies through Research.gov. Attendees also expressed their priorities, including the desire to see partnerships with other federal research agencies, especially the National Institutes of Health, and we will use this feedback to guide future decisions about the initiative.

For questions or more information about the Research.gov team's participation at NCURA, please contact feedback@research.gov. ★



Research.gov in the Community: Winter FDP Conference

The Research.gov team presented an update during the Winter Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP) meeting. The Research.gov team provided the audience with details about new Research.gov services; a preview of the first Research.gov service for the Department of Defense: Grants Application Status for the Army Research Office; and updates from Research.gov's partner agencies. In order to view the Research.gov presentation and other presentations from the conference, visit the FDP web site at www.thefdp.org. ★

This spring the Research.gov Team will be conducting outreach at a variety of research conferences and meetings. To find an opportunity near you, see the Research.gov Events Calendar.

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Research Spending and Results is a search capability that provides increased transparency about how research dollars are being spent and what results are being achieved.

The research community and public can now quickly and easily search for detailed information for over 60,000 NASA and NSF awards, including award abstracts and publication citations.

“I really like the usability of this site and the [Research Spending and Results] search. I was excited to see the search results available for download in CSV, XML, and Excel formats.”

Since September, many Research.gov users have embraced the Research Spending and Results service and commented on its usefulness. As one user remarked, “The [Research Spending and Results] search mechanism is awesome!” ★

Federal Financial Report Now Available on Research.gov!

The National Science Foundation (NSF) recently released the new Federal Financial Report (FFR) service on Research.gov. The FFR is an online service that allows grantee organizations to prepare and submit the new government-wide standard financial report to NSF. The FFR replaces the Federal Cash Transaction Report (SF-272). Beginning in April 2009, all NSF awardees can use Research.gov to submit grant financial reports to NSF. By fiscal year 2010, NSF plans to make Research.gov the standard mechanism for submitting financial reports. Leading up to this transition, NSF encourages its awardees to begin familiarizing themselves with Research.gov and its grant financial reporting capabilities. During fiscal year 2009, awardees will continue to have the option of using FastLane or Research.gov to submit FFRs to NSF.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) from Outreach Activities

Outreach activities provide an important channel for the Research.gov team to answer questions about the initiative. Below is a synopsis of the FAQs from recent outreach activities. For a complete list of Research.gov FAQs, please visit [Research.gov](https://www.research.gov).

General Questions

1. When will the Research.gov site be live?

Research.gov has been live since December 2007 with initial public services and limited release Beta grantee services. Over 1,000 research organizations are already using the Beta grantee services, which are now available to all organizations

Research.gov, FastLane, and Grants.gov

2. How does Research.gov relate to FastLane?

Research.gov is an opportunity to modernize and evolve FastLane to increase the quality and scope of services for the research community. The modernization will include moving legacy FastLane capabilities to a new, modern portal platform.

3. Will Research.gov replace FastLane?

Yes. Eventually Research.gov will replace FastLane. However, that is a ways off. FastLane will continue to be available to NSF grantees in the foreseeable future, as its capabilities are moved to Research.gov.

4. How is Research.gov different from Grants.gov?

Grants.gov is a single access point for grantees to find and apply for all types of federal grants. Research.gov provides a menu of services focused on the needs of research organizations, from grants application status to project and financial reporting. The scope of Research.gov includes any proposal, award, or financial management functions available in FastLane.

5. Why don't all federal agencies use Research.gov?

Research.gov is designed to meet the unique and specific needs of the research community. NSF recognizes the need for solutions specifically tailored for research grant requirements.

Research.gov and Partner Agencies

6. Who are Research.gov's partners?

The following agencies are partnering with NSF:

- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
- Department of Defense (DoD) research components

- USDA's Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (USDA/CSREES)

7. What services will partner agencies offer through Research.gov?

Partner agencies will offer the following initial services through Research.gov:

- Research Spending and Results, Policy Library, and Research Headlines and Events are now available for NASA.
- DoD: Grants Application Status is now available for a DoD pilot agency, Army Research Office (DoD/ARO)
- USDA/CSREES: USDA/CSREES is currently partnering with NSF on the Grants Application Status Beta, the Policy Library, and Research Headlines.

8. Is the National Institutes of Health (NIH) a Research.gov partner?

While NIH is not currently a Research.gov partner, NSF and NIH are in discussions to identify potential partnership opportunities and hope to collaborate on services in the future.

Research Spending and Results

9. What is the difference between Research Spending and Results and USASpending.gov?

According to Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) requirements, federal grant-making agencies must make certain award information, including recipient name and award amount, available to be searched by the public on USASpending.gov. Research Spending and Results provides more frequently updated FFATA award data for participating partner agencies in an easily searchable format. In addition to FFATA data, Research Spending and Results also provides additional award information, such as award abstracts and publication citations, which NSF identified as being a tremendous value for the research community. ★