

# Update on Government-wide Initiatives NSF Advisory Committee for Business and Operations

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## Purpose

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- Provide an update on the Grants.gov implementation
- Provide an update on Research.gov
- Respond to Committee's request to provide plans to leverage university investments

## Government-wide activities: Grants.gov

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- Grants.gov started in 2003 as the government-wide solution to “FIND” and “APPLY” for grants for 26 major grant-making agencies.
  - NSF posts 100% of funding opportunities to Grants.gov FIND
  - NSF accepts proposals submitted via Grants.gov APPLY as well as FastLane (~3% of NSF proposals are submitted via Grants.gov)
- In early 2009, Grants.gov experienced sustained performance degradation and asked OMB for assistance.
- In March 2009, an OMB Memo instructed agencies to identify alternative methods for accepting applications during Recovery Act peak period.
  - NSF continued to post all opportunities to Grants.gov FIND
  - NSF required proposal submission through FastLane
- Now that the Recovery Act peak period has passed, OMB has encouraged agencies to reinstate support for Grants.gov APPLY.
  - NSF will support Grants.gov APPLY option no later than December 1, 2009

# Research.gov Update



## Research.gov Overview

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- Modernizes FastLane (plus more) in partnership with other research agencies.
- Focused on the needs of institutions and researchers:
  - Menu of services and information spanning multiple Federal agencies
  - Tailored to meeting the unique needs of the research community
  - Intuitive, easy-to-use environment to conduct business with the Federal Government
- Increases transparency of Federal research spending and outcomes.
- Provides the public, scientific community, and Congress with easy access to information.
- Leverages government-wide solutions, such as Grants.gov and modern technology standards.

## Research.gov Partnerships

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- Research.gov simplifies the research community's access to information and research services for multiple Federal agencies:
  - National Science Foundation (Lead Agency)
  - National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Partner Agency)
  - Department of Defense Research (Partner Agency)
  - National Institute of Food and Agriculture (Partner Agency)  
*Formerly USDA's Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service*





## Government-wide Grants

- “FIND” Grant Opportunities
- “APPLY” for Grants



## NSF

- NSF-oriented services for:
  - Institutions and researchers
- Prepare and submit:
  - Proposals
  - Financial Transactions and Reports
  - Project Reports
  - Requests related to awards



## Broader Community

- Partnership of research agencies providing research-focused services for:
  - Institutions and Researchers
  - Key Stakeholders
  - NSF Staff/Program Staff
  - General Public
- Mission Focused Services To:
  - Plan programs
  - Accept proposals
  - Conduct merit review
  - Manage awards
  - Publish results
  - Find policies, news, and events

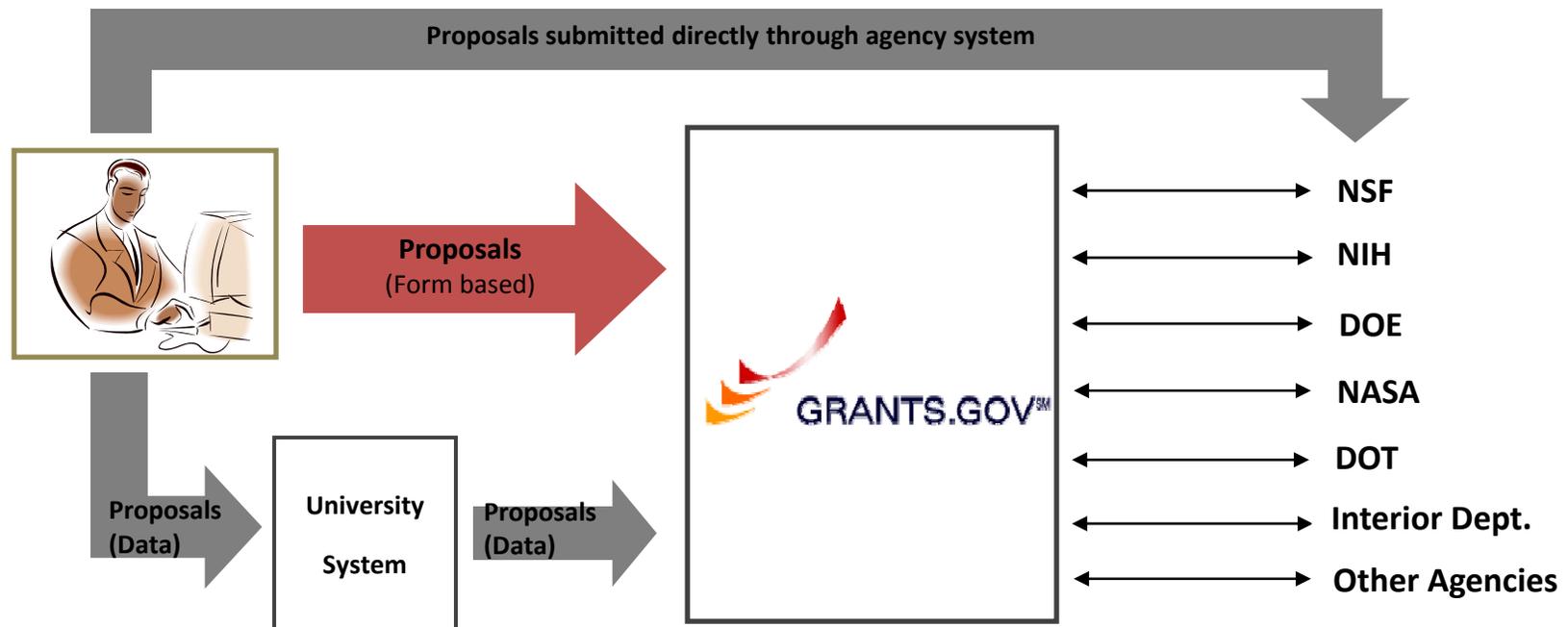
# Research.gov

- **Public Facing Services:**
  - Research Spending & Results
    - Find NSF Recovery Act Awards
  - Policy Library (Government-wide)
  - Research Headlines and Events
  - Science and Innovation (coming soon)
  
- **Research Community Services:**
  - View the status of grant applications
    - Sponsored Project Office
    - Principal Investigator
  - Submit Federal Financial Reports
  - Manage institution and user accounts
  - Project Outcomes Report for the general public (coming soon)
  - Research Performance Project Report (Focus in FY2010)
  - Proposal Submission Services (coming soon)
  
- **Research.gov Desktop for NSF Staff**
  - Find Reviewers (coming soon)
  - Search Proposals (coming soon)



## Emerging Landscape for Submissions

- Several options to submit applications to Federal Government:
  - Web-based interactive agency system that guides applicant through process
  - Use of Grants.gov Adobe Forms to apply (downloadable fillable forms)
  - “System-to-System” proposal data transfer from university system to Grants.gov or other system



## Leveraging University Investments

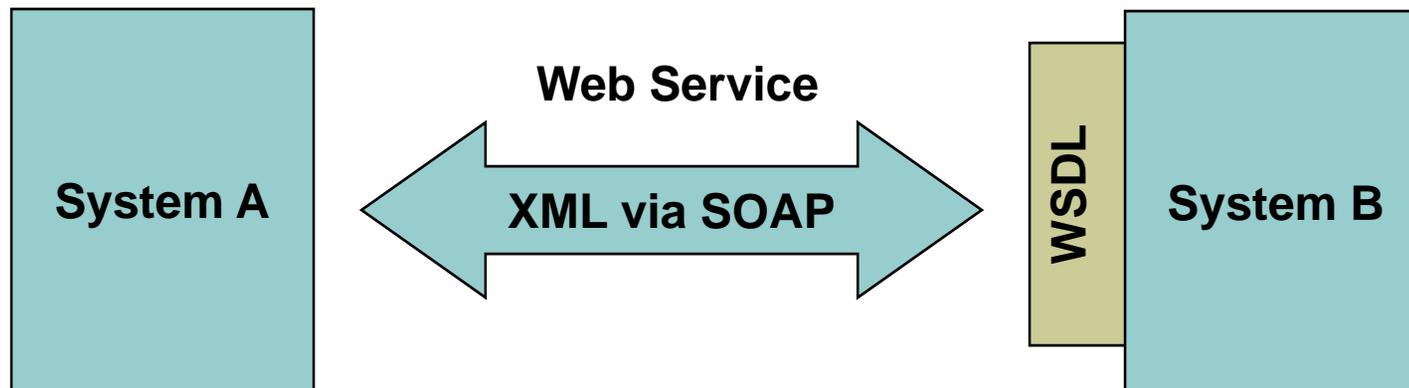
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- More and more universities are investing in commercial (and institution) software products to support administrative and business requirements related to Federal grant processes.
  - Implementation status and business use/value varies by university and product
  - Universities are implementing these systems to save time and resources and achieve efficiencies
  - Universities are at varying levels of maturity in terms of the scale and scope of their business processes and supporting technology products
  
- Changing market place for Universities:
  - Major commercial providers include: Cayuse, Click Commerce, InfoED, and ERA Software
  - University sponsored commercial products include: Coeus (MIT)
  - Institution providers include: Duke University and University of Washington

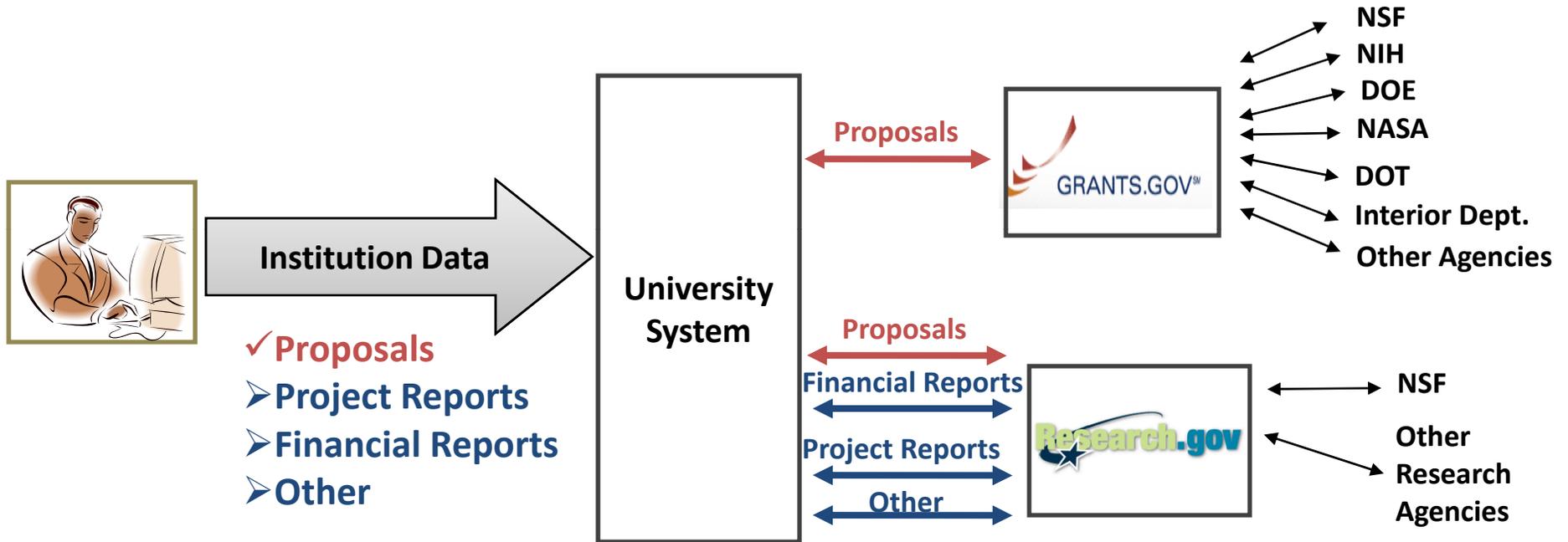
## Leveraging Standards

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- Products rely heavily on government and technology standards to communicate with other applications or products.
  - Core data sets and government-wide data standards (e.g., Research & Related data set)
  - Industry technology standards (Web services)
    - Platform independent secure messaging service (SSL with mutual authentication)
    - Standard language (XML) and protocols (SOAP)
    - Web service description (WSDL)



# True Technology-Enabled Services





## Research.gov Submission Service

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- A number of institutions volunteered to test new web services for transmitting data between university systems and Research.gov
  - California Institute of Technology and University of Texas at Austin: Using Cayuse commercial product
  - Massachusetts Institute of Technology: Using Coeus product
  - Duke University: Using custom institution-specific system
  
- Multiple vendors are extending their web services to better support their university customers
  
- Experience to date has been positive
  - Institutions like using their local system as the “common environment” for supporting end-to-end business needs
  - Vendors see significant value from relatively low cost and effort
  - Everyone wants capability to seamlessly submit more than just proposals (e.g., Project Reports)

## Next Steps

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- NSF to reinstate Grants.gov as an option for proposal submission by December 1, 2009.
- Research.gov Submission Service (Web Service):
  - Collect feedback, enhance service, and then expand to more institutions.
- Incorporate Business and Operations Advisory Committee feedback into plans.
- Continue to engage the research community in NSF plans and services.