

EVALUATION BRANCH STATUS REPORT FORM
FINAL STATUS REPORT: R&D Reporting Data System

EB Reference Number: 08-5001 OD-OER-ORIS

Project Title: R&D Reporting Data System

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Performer/Contractor: Discovery Logic Inc. (DL) and Net eSolutions Corporation (NETE)

City & State: Rockville, MD and McLean, Virginia

Type of procurement: GSA Schedule 70

Contracting office/officer: Emria Briscoe

Completed Project

Actual Start Date: 10/2007

Actual Completion Date: 03/20/2009

Final Report Title: Reporting, Data, and Analyses (RDA) Website

Website Address: <http://report.nih.gov>

Program Background:

A recent National Academy of Sciences report, *Enhancing the Vitality of the National Institutes of Health*, recommended that “NIH should standardize on data and information management systems ... in particular for accurate reporting.” Aware of the need to improve our overall reporting capabilities, OER initiated an assessment of those capabilities beginning in January 2006. This assessment led to a number of business process improvements, as well as a proof-of-concept reporting website and data system. Evaluation award 08-5001 OD-OER-ORIS was to build on this assessment to create a production Reporting, Data, and Analyses (RDA) system and website.

Purpose of Study:

The purpose of this study was to perform a systematic review, analysis and evaluation of NIH reporting stakeholder needs, new reporting and analysis procedures and processes, methods, and technology and tools to support NIH-wide reporting and evaluation studies. The goals were to:

- Improve the reliability and consistency of reporting for NIH stakeholders
- Speed up the reports and data generation and delivery process
- Standardize and facilitate stakeholder and user needs for research reporting and evaluation studies
- Increase transparency and validity of the information generation process
- Enhance existing NIH reporting tools by incorporating additional data and data sources
- Provide a single web-based user interface for reporting to facilitate use by the public and NIH staff

Methods:

Performed a systematic review, analysis and evaluation of new reporting and analysis procedures, methods, presentation/visualization design, and technology/tools. Based on this evaluation, developed system requirements and began iterative development of an RDA website.

Findings/Results:

The resulting RDA system and website was successful in assisting NIH and OER to improve reporting and facilitate global access to useful, timely, and accurate information about the NIH's research activities and expenditures. The early success of the RDA website led to its expansion into the current Research Portfolio Online Reporting Tool (RePORT) at report.nih.gov. RePORT has been an important and critical step in converting what had been a relatively disjointed collection of award information into a unified stakeholder-centric set of NIH research information and supporting services. The establishment of a single website to locate or request reports, improve the accuracy of the datasets and reports created by NIH, the timeliness with which they are delivered, and the ability to provide a clearer audit trail for the information were all critical to the success of this evaluation effort. There remains a critical need and opportunity to provide new and more efficient methods of meeting these needs and these were addressed in the evaluation also.

Recommendations/Future Steps:

- Gather additional feedback on the RePORT website from NIH stakeholders and users (both internal and external)
- Further refine current website
- Expand RePORT functionality to meet requirements of NIH reauthorization by developing the Research Portfolio Online Reporting Expenditures and Results Tool (RePORTER), a replacement for the current CRISP system [currently planned for deployment in the summer of 2009]
- Continue to promote trans-NIH reporting business rules, reporting processes, and methods through the broader NIH RePORT initiative
- Move RePORT to an operations and maintenance mode, supported and maintained by OER, by FY 2011.

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FINAL STATUS REPORT: NIH REPORTS, DATA AND ANALYSES (RDA) WEBSITE



Figure 1 - RePORT Website: Home Page (evaluated and updated iteratively)

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Figure 2 - RePORT Website: NIH Strategic Plans

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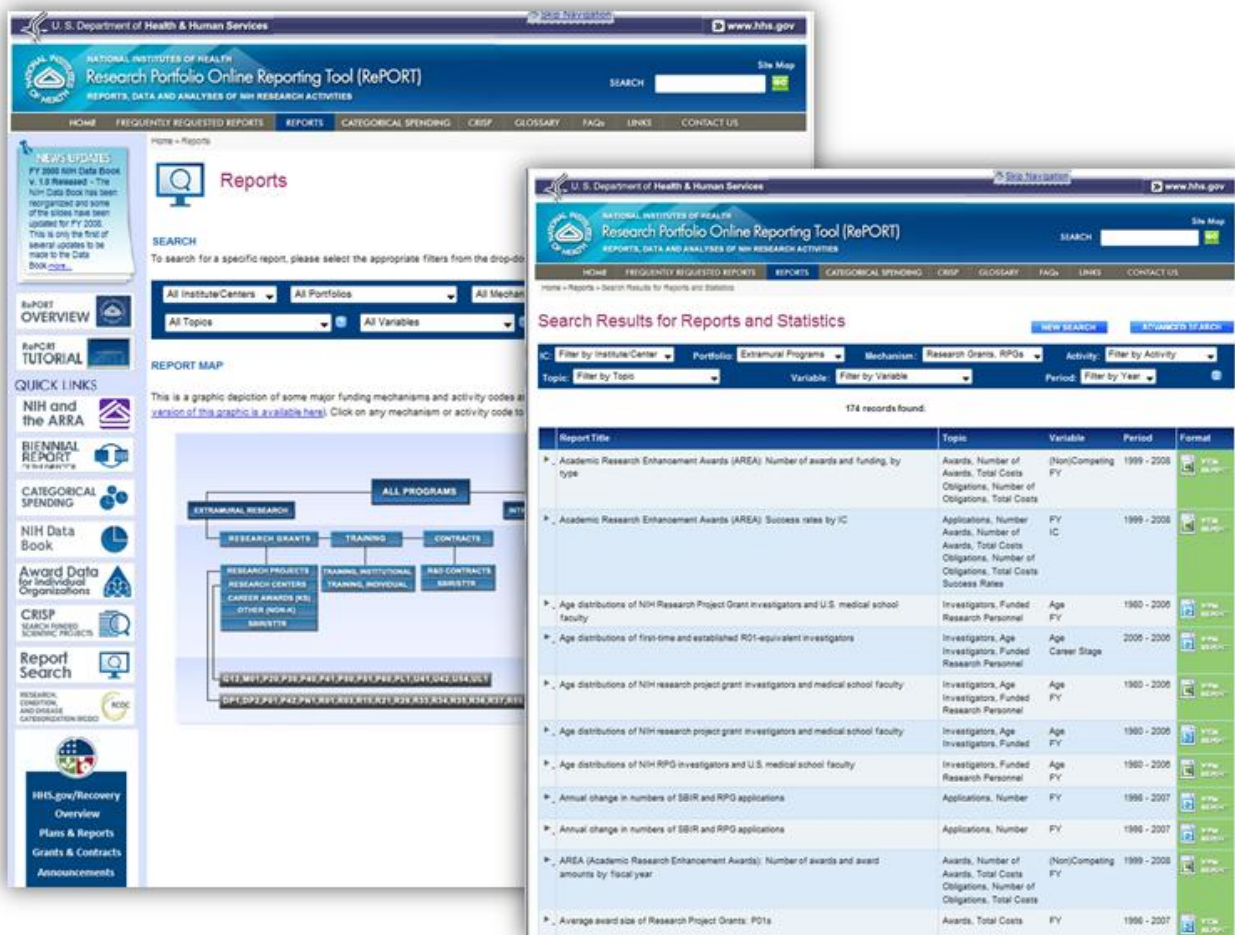


Figure 3 - RePORT Website: NIH Reports Search and Retrieval Database

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The screenshot shows the RePORT website's 'Current and Historical Awards (1972 - 2009) Query Form'. The page header includes the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services logo, the RePORT title, and a search bar. A navigation menu at the top lists: HOME, FREQUENTLY REQUESTED REPORTS, REPORTS, CATEGORICAL SPENDING, CRISP, GLOSSARY, FAQs, LINKS, and CONTACT US. The main content area is titled 'Current and Historical Awards (1972 - 2009) Query Form' and contains several search filters:

- Enter Search Terms:** A text input field.
- Global Logic:** Radio buttons for 'And' and 'Or'.
- Expansion Logic:** Radio buttons for 'Stem NINE' and 'Stem NONE'.
- Maximum Records:** A dropdown menu set to '250'.
- Thesaurus:** A link to 'View CRISP Thesaurus'.
- PI Name (Last, First):** Two text input fields.
- Award Type:** A dropdown menu set to 'All Types'.
- Activity:** A dropdown menu set to 'All Activities'.
- Grant Number:** A text input field with a note 'Use % for wildcard'.
- Grant Title:** A text input field with a note 'Use % for wildcard'.
- IRG:** A dropdown menu with options 'All', '02', and 'ODIR'. A secondary dropdown for 'Institutes and Centers' is open, showing 'NIAAA - Alcohol Abuse & Alcoholism' and 'NIA - Aging'.
- Institution:** A text input field with a note 'Use % for wildcard'.
- Fiscal Year:** A dropdown menu with options '2009', '2008', and '2007'. A note says 'Use Ctrl to select multiple years'.
- State:** A dropdown menu with options 'All', 'Alabama', and 'Alaska'.

Buttons for 'SUBMIT QUERY' and 'CLEAR QUERY' are located below the filters. A sidebar on the left contains various links and updates, including 'NEWS UPDATES', 'RePORT OVERVIEW', 'RePORT TUTORIAL', 'QUICK LINKS', and 'Report Search'.

Figure 4 - RePORT Website: CRISP updated query screen user interface