Florida ExpertNet Redesign

Overview

The Clearinghouse for Applied Research and Public Service established the Florida ExpertNet in order to provide a Web-based knowledge management system where anyone in Florida and throughout the world can gain access to information about Florida's university-based research capabilities, strengths and experiences in a wide variety of fields.

An easily "searchable" ExpertNet database on principal investigators, research units (e.g., centers and institutes) and other specialized research capabilities found within Florida's universities can be accessed "on-line" in order to find faculty experts in a wide variety of areas to help with problems and opportunities faced by individuals, government agencies, investors and companies. This versatile "tool" has many potential uses. Its architecture allows for great flexibility to add specialized modules (e.g., commercialization opportunities involving patents and licensure, women's health issues, opportunities in biotechnology/bioengineering breakthroughs) quickly to address new issues as they arise.

Primary Objectives

The objectives of the Florida ExpertNet are to:
- Provide access to targeted expertise within Florida's universities;
- Promote university-based research activities and opportunities;
- Collect and disseminate information on university expertise and capabilities;
- Deliver relevant and up-to-date information through user-specific filters;
- Provide easy, reliable access to a variety of information services available throughout the state; and
- Facilitate opportunities for collaboration among university researchers and others.

Web Interface Redesign & FBOG Guidance

The Clearinghouse has recently re-configured ExpertNet to become a more robust technical infrastructure by redesigning its interface. These changes will allow the system to be more efficient and user-friendly. Thus far, BOG staff have provided feedback in the following areas:
- Place greater emphasis on business and industry as target users of the system;
- Feature prominent areas of expertise in high priority areas;
- Feature successful research stories; and
- Provide quick data reports containing useful statistics and information based on data within ExpertNet

Next Steps

- Solicit feedback from various stakeholder groups
- Work with each university to acquire real time data in a routine and seamless manner (FSU and UF have been contacted and are working to accomplish this goal)
- Develop and implement a comprehensive marketing plan to promote the ongoing use of this "tool"

General Statistics (12 month time period)	
Number of Successful Hits for Entire Site	521,162
Number of User Sessions	43,291
Average Number of Hits Per Day	1,423
Average Number of Page Views Per Day	288
Average Number of User Sessions Per Day	118
Number of Unique Users	21,597
Number of Users Who Visited More Than Once	3,235