The Challenge
Researchers frequently face the daunting task of locating appropriate funding to support their research. A survey by the U-M Medical School Office of Research (OOR) found:
- Frustration with the time and effort it takes to search for new funding opportunities
- Difficulty finding relevant opportunities
- Lack of awareness about internal resources available to help identify funding

Solution: Consultation Services
Clients can complete a form to request a personalized grant-seeking consultation with U-M informationists and librarians.

Solution: Online Guide
An easy-to-use resource guide and consultation service that assists researchers across campus, regardless of discipline, in harvesting resources pertaining to finding funding. Sections include:
- Find Funding – Directory broken down by function and focus (e.g., Internal U-M Funding, External Funding from foundations, government organizations, and many more)
- Grant Writing Preparation & Training – Internal and external training resources such as workshops, database tutorials, and more
- Research Collaboration – Tools to find research collaborators across campus and beyond
- Quick Links – The most commonly accessed and requested tools for finding funding information (e.g., direct links to third-party databases that U-M subscribes to, maps for navigating U-M research processes, etc.)

Goals
- Provide a centralized way for faculty to find internal and external funding opportunities
- Offer tailored assistance to faculty through information consultation services
- Reduce the amount of time needed to find relevant opportunities

Guide available at: http://funding.research.umich.edu

The Impact
Faculty seeking information about research funding at the U-M and beyond now have a one-stop resource shop. If someone is in need of help, or needs information tailored to their specific research interests, a campus-wide system has been established to handle and address these requests.

Follow Up & Lessons Learned
- Gaining a better understanding of researchers’ needs can provide insight into what services and resources are needed.
- The collaborative effort to design and produce this Guide and consultation service can serve as a model for others seeking to partner with stakeholders at research institutions.
- Establishing and proactively maintaining a collaborative relationship with units across the research enterprise can build a sustainable system to help researchers navigate the complex funding process.

Simplifying the Process for Finding Research Funding: A Cross-Campus Collaboration at a Large Academic Institution
A partnership between the U-M Library and Medical School Office of Research to develop an online Research Funding & Grants Guide to meet the needs of researchers frustrated with the time and effort it takes to search for funding opportunities.

Key components of these consultations include:
- Orienting researchers to the Funding Guide
- Training on the funding database COS/PIVOT
- Setting up personalized information alerts

All consultation requests are triaged through a centralized software system (BMC Numara FootPrints) to track the status of requests.

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