



E-BOOK KUALI RESEARCH

Revolutionizing Research
Administration: Embracing Digital
Transformation

What is Digital Transformation?

In the ever-evolving landscape of higher education, digital transformation has become more than just a buzzword; it's a strategic imperative. Institutions worldwide are striving to harness the power of technology to enhance their operations. Research administration is no exception. How can digital transformation reshape the field of research administration, and what tools can be used for seamless evolution?

First, definition time. Digital transformation is more than just adopting new technologies; it's a fundamental shift in how research administration is conducted. Digital transformation leverages innovative digital tools and strategies to streamline processes,

improve data management, enhance collaboration, and ultimately empower institutions to “provide value-producing opportunities”. In the realm of research administration, digital transformation has the potential to revolutionize how research projects are managed, funded, and executed.



How Can Digital Transformation Help Your Institution?

Okay, sounds great, but how can digital transformation help my institution? Here are just a few ways digital transformation can reshape research administration:



01

Enhanced Efficiency

Traditional research administration processes often involve significant manual tasks and paperwork. With digital transformation, institutions can automate low-risk tasks, reducing the administrative burden on researchers and administrators. Here are some examples:

- Leverage workflow tools to automate routine processes.
- Consider opportunities for integrations to reduce time spent entering duplicate data manually.
- Eliminate a frustrating search for documents with a document manager that quickly sorts and filters documents based on the data a user wants to see.
- Reduce time spent searching through a flooded inbox to find the one time-sensitive email that requires action with an integrated action list.

02

Improved Data Management:

Data is the lifeblood of research administration. Digital transformation solutions offer advanced data management tools, ensuring data accuracy, accessibility, and security. Research leadership can make data-driven decisions with confidence, ultimately leading to more meaningful discoveries.

03

Risk Reduction

Automating and simplifying compliance tracking and reporting reduces the risk of non-compliance and associated penalties.

04

Cost Savings

The cost of holding on to outdated, pen-and-paper solutions is greater than the time and money spent to adapt to meet today's demands. Embracing digital transformation provides institutions the agility to reconfigure their current processes and goals.

05

Ongoing Improvement

A transformation process needs to be ongoing, providing great flexibility to meet the evolving needs of your institution. Learning and adjusting is an ongoing process.

[Educause](#) reports that only 13% of institutions are currently engaged in digital transformation, but approximately 70% are exploring or preparing a digital transformation strategy. This discovery prompts an equally important question, what should an institution do when approaching digital transformation?

A Guide to Digital Transformation

01

Create a shared vision and strategy

A clear and well-defined digital transformation strategy is the cornerstone of successful transformation. Organizations must articulate a vision that aligns with their long-term goals and objectives.

Collaboration and communication between IT teams responsible for procuring and implementing new technologies, researchers who will be end users, and research administration leadership will be critical voices in the conversation. Once stakeholder needs have been discussed and clarified, spend time within each cohort discussing how individual goals fit into the bigger digital transformation plan.

02

Integrate Technology

Digital transformation relies heavily on technology adoption. This includes the implementation of cloud computing, data analytics, and artificial intelligence. Integrating these technologies can improve efficiency, agility, and decision-making processes.

In the spirit of digital transformation and efficiency, look for flexible solutions that speak to multiple parts of a problem, provide implementation support, and are extensible or configurable.

03

Culture Shift

A significant aspect of digital transformation is fostering a culture of innovation and adaptability. Employees must be empowered to embrace change, take risks, and continuously learn. Cultural transformation is essential for ensuring that the organization can adapt to new digital tools and methodologies.

Maybe the most difficult part about a true transformation is shifting culture. Every institution will have to create buy-in and excitement about their progress in a personalized way. The heavy lifting will be done by those in charge of procuring new technologies and creating a roadmap for digital transformation. This can be made easier by exploring digital solutions that are user-friendly and built for higher education.

04

Data-driven evolution

Data is a valuable asset in the digital transformation journey. Leveraging data analytics and business intelligence tools can provide organizations with actionable insights, helping them make informed decisions and drive improvements.

Making data easy to access for users encourages its use. Data green flags in solutions can be having an easy way to integrate via APIs (this can also help reduce the burden on the IT organization), multiple options to help manage and sort through data, and the ability to export data.

05

Optimization

Digital transformation involves continuous reevaluation and optimization of existing processes. New concepts, like digital transformation, can be daunting. Many institutions might wonder if they can afford the cost, spare the human capital, or spend the time to digitally transform their research administration enterprise, but the right question to ask is: how much will it cost your institution to be static? Maintaining old code bases, employing teams of engineers, mismanaging time through lack of efficiency, fixing errors, and just... waiting: the status quo is expensive.

The good news is many of the available digital solutions supporting digital transformation are already working with schools to do all of the work outlined above. Opportunities to speak with software servicers and peer users at conferences like EDUCAUSE and [Kuali Days](#) will be invaluable in making a switch. Additionally, a superb solution will have implementation support that includes training, customer support, and community forums.

We'd love to show you how [Kuali Research](#), our Next-Generation Research Suite, can support your digital transformation goals in Research Administration and Compliance.