



How SHRF created a grants management platform that simplified their review process with robust data gathering capabilities.

Synopsis

SHRF was using Microsoft Access to manage their data, but found it was not particularly user-friendly. Specifically, they found accessing data and reporting a challenge. Their previous system had been limited to data entry for applications and contacts, and they really wanted the ability to save information on their review committee process.

Key Stats

Client Name: Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation (SFI)

SmartSimple Client Since: 2013

Type of Giving: Research Grants

Old System: Microsoft Access

Key Pain Points: Non-user friendly system that had limited access to data to track and report on

New System Must-Haves: A true, all-in-one solution that has cross-functional data access. An intuitive reporting module that is accurate



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Shaz Azam, Director of Finance
SHRF

About The Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation

The Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation (SHRF) is the provincial agency responsible for funding, facilitating and promoting innovative, collaborative health research in Saskatchewan.

SHRF works as a catalyst, driver, and leader to:

- Build and broaden the province's research capacity
- Expedite the production and sharing of knowledge
- Build and broaden the province's research capacity
- Increase stakeholder engagement
- Generate new and diverse funding partnerships
- Measure the impact of health research on our Saskatchewan communities

Selecting SmartSimple

SHRF were initially attracted to SmartSimple as a Canadian-based service provider that could supply a true all-in-one solution. They discovered the kind of expertise and research industry knowledge SmartSimple had at its finger tips would be invaluable to them.

"SmartSimple provided well integrated, cross-functional data access and an intuitive reporting module that is accurate, and it's easy to modify the parameters of a report on the fly," says Shaz Azam, Director of Finance for SHRF.

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Saskatchewan Health
Research Foundation is
hosted on
Amazon Web Services

Working with SmartSimple

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After working with their new system, SHRF employees discovered increased efficiency, eliminating a lot of unnecessary extra work.

Specific features they found particularly helpful were:

- Being able to assign applications to review committee members without having to do a massive mail out
- Applicant assessments submitted through the system meant SHRF no longer had to organize and send to the correct committee members; it was done automatically
- The ability to edit the review forms to keep them anonymous, and upload them to the application to give to the researcher

After implementation, Karen Glazebrook, Director of Funding Programs sent a survey to their 2014-2015 researchers, supervisors and university research facilitators to get their feedback. The response was overwhelmingly positive. Users found the system easy to use, had a great look and feel, and commended SHRF on the new online application process. “Users said the online application section was very clear and had better instructions than just about any other website they’d used. SmartSimple reduced the anxiety around completing their applications correctly,” adds Shaz.

“SmartSimple is an intuitive system with lots of flexibility. We think other organizations would really benefit from the effectiveness and efficiency. It’s great to know you’re working with a team of professionals that will patiently work with you to make your vision a reality,” concludes Shaz.

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About SmartSimple

SmartSimple is a global leader in cloud-based automation and collaboration software, offering unique process solutions used by over 375 clients in more than 192 countries. Some of the largest companies in the Fortune 100, as well as global foundations and government agencies, choose SmartSimple to enrich their impact story and create greater efficiencies in their business processes.

About Discover

Discover is a scalable, all-in-one research grant administration solution that reduces the administrative burden and complexity of managing foundation, institution, and pharmaceutical research funding. Whether you have a single or multi-stage research grant funding process, Discover empowers you to manage applications seamlessly. With a unified data model within SmartSimple Platform3, all your team members have access to the vital data they need, easily accessible at any time and from anywhere, ensuring adjudication and monitoring are streamlined for more efficient and effective reviews. Post-approval, Discover enables you to stay organized as you disburse and monitor your funds, while robust reporting capabilities enable effective outcomes tracking.

Our commitment to making processes work better and freeing our clients to do more good goes beyond the technologies we create – **it's at the very heart of our business.**

Michael Reid
Co-Founder, Chief Operating Officer
SmartSimple



Discover more.

Contact us to request a demo that's tailored to your granting needs.



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SmartSimple interacts with over 250,000 unique users a month from over 375 organizations in more than 192 countries.

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