Today, institutions have the option of many different systems to support and promote the work of the academics. Repositories provide a home for the outputs / publications, and support open access to the material. VIVO provides a semantic discovery layer that can connect across institutions. Content Management Systems can provide profiles for the academics. Additionally, there are pressures on academics to have their publications assessed, provide reports to the institution, etc.

Attempts to extend these systems to take on larger roles (for example, repositories providing government returns) can have negative sides (metadata only records for the purpose of reporting dilutes the OA visibility).

Yet, many of these systems require a lot of the same data (personal data, bibliographic metadata ,etc). Not only do you want to avoid curating this data multiple times, in many cases it is available from data sources that the institution provides or has access to (HR systems, Web of Science, Scopus, Crossref, etc.)

But beyond that, there is value to be gained from the systems knowing about each other - e.g. a publication in VIVO can link to the full text in the institutional repository.

A central authority system can provide that conduit of data - from internal and external data sources, through to the repository, VIVO and other public systems - and flow information about each system to the other.

In a collaboration between University of Bournemouth and Symplectic, such an environment has already been implemented. Academics interact with the central Elements system, creating their profiles with data mostly harvested from external sources. And through the same interface, they can deposit publications to their repository [1] - taking all of the metadata that has been sourced for them. At the same time, this data is also fed through to a VIVO implementation [2], including links back to the content in the repository (where available).

[1] <http://eprints.bournemouth.ac.uk>

[2] <http://staffprofiles.bournemouth.ac.uk>