

ORCID Implementation in Open Access Repositories and Institutional Research Information Management Systems

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Abstract

ORCID provides individual researchers and scholars with a persistent unique identifier. Initial adoption has been rapid but the full benefit will be realized only if ORCID iDs are used by all stakeholder communities. ORCID iDs enable reuse of items in new contexts by making connections between items from the same author in different places. Through its author-focused approach ORCID will contribute to bridging the current divide between the management of publications and of research data, which are often carried out in independent ways through different, frequently disconnected kinds of repositories. We discuss procedures and strategies for ORCID iD implementation in two different contexts: open access repositories, and institutional research information management systems.

Introduction

ORCID was launched in October 2012 and provides the scholarly community with universal, unique author and contributor identifiers. As of February 2013 ORCID already has over 60,000 registrations – mainly based upon word of mouth dissemination (often through social networks) and individual researcher signup. The new author identification standard is being adopted widely – for example, it is recommended by Jisc and others in the UK [1], will be used as part of the grant application process by the Wellcome Trust [2], is being tested for integration into the ScienCV platform by the US NIH [3], and is being used by journals such as Nature [4] within their submission processes. Continued adoption and service consolidation will take place during 2013. Additional ORCID implementation strategies nevertheless need to be developed and deployed to involve all the multiple stakeholders taking part in the initiative – institutions, publishers, funders, policymakers and third-party companies. So far, ORCID registrations are approximately two-thirds self-registration and one-third from integration-based approaches, mainly with publisher platforms (i.e. publishers' option or requirement of authors' ORCID iDs at manuscript submission time).

At the moment, individual ORCID adoption is being driven by outreach activities such as introductory talks delivered at universities, and an intense dissemination activity through Twitter and Facebook. Social networks are proving to be very effective tools both for spreading the word about ORCID and for getting feedback from researchers on specific features they'd like to see implemented in future platform updates. ORCID has ambitious plans for strengthening this outreach effort. Among other approaches the effort involves the creation of an ORCID Ambassador programme that will allow interested parties to be officially nominated as responsible for ORCID outreach to specific communities and/or geographic regions. In addition to their dissemination role, the Ambassadors will serve as ears sensitive to varying local needs, concerns and expectations.

The initial self-registration and publisher-driven adoption strategies will increasingly be complemented with ORCID adoption through integration with other systems. This presentation will describe procedures and strategies for ORCID adoption in open access repositories and institutional research information management systems.

Repository integration

Great progress has been made in recent years in the creation and population of institutional and subject repositories. In many cases it remains a challenge to ensure that content is easily discoverable, and widely used and reused. ORCID will improve the identification and disambiguation of authors and contributors in repositories, and facilitate the interconnection of open access repositories based on these identities. Repositories can provide ORCID iD based facilities to authors across a whole discipline – in the case of subject-based repositories – or to all authors at a given institution through institutional repositories for those universities or research centers that join in as ORCID members. This introduction will deal with the procedures currently in place at institutions in various countries for using repositories as a privileged way for ORCID adoption.

Preliminary approaches to ORCID implementation through open access repositories include adapting and re-using existing plugins developed to support national author identification systems such as the Names in the UK. The Names Project has already produced, implemented and tested an add-on for Eprints-based repositories, which could easily be re-used for ORCID iD implementation as soon as the institutional coverage is wide enough [5].

Integration with institutional research information management systems

Institutions have the opportunity not only to save their members time and effort by seeding ORCID profiles from data in their research information management systems, but also to assist in the maintenance of this data by ensuring that ORCID iDs are attached to member publications. This process, which is only being preliminarily dealt with at the moment, involves using the ORCID member API for automated ORCID iD generation. Once these ORCID iDs have been created, they should be transferred into the institutional administration and research information management systems. At the time of writing, some CRIS vendors are already updating their data models in order to feature ORCID iDs in the default author personal profile and to allow for automatic ingestion of publication references into CRISs from personal ORCID profiles [6]. We will summarize the multiple ORCID adoption strategies at institutional level depending on specific system configurations.

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