An up-to-date state of CRISs in Spanish universities

Open Access Subgroup / REBIUN Strategic Plan, Line II
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Introduction

A Current Research Information System (CRIS) is understood in this report as any system devoted to research management. This may include:

- A research project management tool
- A tool for managing researchers' CVs
- A tool for exposing and disseminating the research activity conducted at the university

In some universities these three functions are covered by a single system, whereas other use different systems for each of them. This report aims to clarify this landscape, as well as to explore the degree of involvement of university libraries in research information management tasks.
CRIS survey – June/July 2018

62 out of the **76 REBIUN institutions** have participated in the survey

- **81.57%** Response rate
- **45** Have a CRIS
- **73%**
  Of the universities that have participated in the survey
- **59%**
  Of REBIUN universities
## What areas are managed by your system?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Records for research activity (publications, projects, dissertation supervision, mobility, etc.)</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Researcher’s CV management</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissemination of the institutional research output. Portal and/or Expert Finder</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment of the institutional research and academic activity</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial management and research monitoring</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research project management and monitoring</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Research information management is in most cases run by the Research Service and Office for Transfer of Research Results (39 institutions, 87%) whereas at 18 universities this is run only by the Research Service. At the remaining institutions, the service is run by the institutional research offices together with other units.

Libraries have an important role in this area: the library takes part in CRIS management at 21 universities, that is, in 47% of the institutions that have a CRIS. It is worth mentioning that the library manages the CRIS in 3 universities, in one of the cases in collaboration with IT Services.
The landscape shows a high dispersion, although the most frequent option is in-house developed systems. Among commercial solutions it is worth mentioning the Universitas XXI application, both its research and/or finance modules, GREC and SIGMA Research.

Among the solutions in the 'Other' section there are mentions to Fund@net (Semicrol SL), DSpace-CRIS (DuraSpace), Widi and VIVO, meaning mostly open source platforms.
Most CRIS are hosted within the institution. Only 18% of them are externally hosted in a SaaS system or similar solution.
Do the activities recorded in the CRIS get validated?

- Activities are validated in most [36] universities (80%). In 24 of these 36 only some activities are validated (53%).
- Activities are not validated at 4 universities (8.88%), and in five cases the reply is 'Not sure' (11.11%)
- It would be useful to know what kind of activities are validated
The procedure for registering the activities in the CRIS is a mixed one, and most institutions follow all the methods mentioned (39 universities, i.e. 86% of them). Only 6 universities (14%) choose a single option, by the researcher him/herself or via mediated registration.

This means that researchers need additional methods and a significant level of support to carry out these tasks.
Istutional systems from which information gets transferred into the CRIS

- No transfer from institutional systems: 6
- Human Resources System: 32
- Project Management System: 17
- Institutional Research System: 16
- Finance and Accounting Institutional System: 13
- Postgraduate Service Database: 13
- Institutional Repository: 11
- Not sure: 4
- Library management System: 4
- Other: Teaching Database: 3
- Other: Specific Files: 1
- Other: Internal system for research output evaluation: 1

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External systems from which information gets transferred into the CRIS

- No transfer from external systems: 12
- Bibliographical Databases (WOS, Scopus, Dialnet, etc.): 28
- Public researcher profiles and identifiers (ORCID, Google Scholar, ResearchID, ScopusID, etc.): 14
- Research Metric Sources (Altmetrics, etc.): 6
- Scientific Social Networks (Academia, ResearchGate, etc.): 4
- Research Data Repository: 2
- Not sure: 2
- Otro: National CV: 2
- Other: Information from other research information systems: 1
- Research Portals (OpenAIRE, etc.): 1
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Indicators included in the CRIS

- No indicators: 14
- Impact indicators and Rankings (JCR, SJR, etc.): 30
- Citation counts: 18
- Journal quality assessment systems (Latindex, MIAR, etc.): 11
- Alternative metrics (Altmetrics, etc.): 10
- Not sure: 1
The most frequently included author identifiers in the CRISs are ORCID, the ResearcherID and the ScopusID.

In the 'Other' category there were references to social network profiles such as LinkedIn, twitter, etc. There was probably a confusion between the author identifier concept and the various author profiles in social networks.
The role of the library in the CRIS

- Assessment on the bibliometric indicators included in the CRIS: 28
- Support for creating and feeding researcher profiles and identifiers: 28
- Validation of the academics' research output: 23
- Manual or automatic supply of the academics' research output: 21
- Collaboration on the production of the annual research report: 13
- The library does not collaborate in any activity: 6
- Other: 3
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Number of Library Staff dedicated part-time

Number of Library Staff dedicated full-time

264 Part-time dedicated

7 Full-time dedicated
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Number of Other Services Staff dedicated part-time

- 20 part-time staff
- 7 part-time staff
- 4 part-time staff
- 5 part-time staff
- 3 part-time staff
- 2 part-time staff
- 1 part-time staff
- 1 part-time staff
- 1 part-time staff
- 1 part-time staff

Number of Other Services Staff dedicated full-time

- 31 full-time staff
- 8 full-time staff
- 1 full-time staff
- 1 full-time staff
- 1 full-time staff
- 2 full-time staff
- 2 full-time staff

129 Part-time dedicated
53 Full-time dedicated
Institutional systems that interact with CRIS

- Human Resources System: 28
- Authentication System: 22
- Institutional Repository: 16
- Project Management System: 14
- Technology/Knowledge Transfer: 11
- Grant Management System: 6
- Research Data Repository: 5
- Library Management Repository: 3
- Dissertations Repository: 3
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External systems that interact with CRIS

- None of those indicated: 5
- National CV Format (CVN and CVA, FECYT): 17
- Bibliographical Databases (WOS, Scopus, Dialnet): 10
- Public researcher profiles and identifiers (ISNI, ORCID, ResearchID, ScopusID): 9
- National CV Import: 7
- Research Metric Sources (H Index, Impact Factor, Altmetric, Plum Analytics): 5
- Research Portals (OpenAIRE, etc.): 2
- National CV format (without FECYT): 1
- SICA2 (Andalucia Scientific Information System): 1
- Standard CV for Basque Regional Government: 1
Regardless of the “Not sure” option, the section of universities with 1001 to 3000 faculty with information in the CRIS is the largest of all, reaching 50%.

This data is consistent with the number of the Institutions that have answered YES to the question of whether they have CRIS.
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Type of users with information in the CRIS

- Academic Staff: 42
- Researchers: 42
- Faculty: 42
- Experts: 42
- Teaching Staff: 42
- Postdoctoral Researchers: 29
- Postgraduate Students: 19
- Other Staff (Laboratories, Technical Support): 15
- Library Staff: 9
- Librarians: 9
- Guest Faculty: 5
- External or internal collaborators in projects or research groups: 2
- Anyone who is part of the R&D group can participate: 1
- External collaborators in projects or research groups: 1
- University Staff: 1
- Not sure: 1

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Does CRIS have a public portal?

- Yes: 67%
- No: 33%
Is the inclusion in the portal mandatory?

- Voluntary: 32%
- Mandatory: 54%
- Not sure: 14%
## What information does the portal offer?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Publications</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Researchers</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projects</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patents</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activities</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Units</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Lines</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awards</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spin-offs</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rankings</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belonging to subject networks or scientific societies</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Contracts</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Offer</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other merits</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supervised Dissertations</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching experience</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching activities</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publication evaluation data</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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**CRIS is primarily used for:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recording Research Results</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparing the institution's research annual reports</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internal reports</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public profiles of researchers</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reusing (in CVs, personal reviews, other web pages)</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Providing information for rankings, etc.</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparation of accreditation and sexenium calls</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identifying collaborators or experts</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workflows for annual reports of academic activity</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Designing the lines of the university's scientific policy (budget distribution, own projects, etc.)</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Display of Academic impact</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compliance with open access mandates to publications</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>External Assessment of Research</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In general, the responses indicate that there is still no real integration between institutional repositories and CRISs (only 14, 31%, state that they are integrated). From the 13 responses included in the “Other” section, we may conclude that in many of these cases there are gateways that unidirectionally connect the CRIS with the repository, but not vice versa.
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Protocols, standards or vocabularies supported or implemented in CRIS

- CVN (FECYT): 38
- CERIF/CERIF XML: 12
- OAI-PMH: 7
- XML: 2
- Shibboleth: 2
- API-REST: 1
- SAML: 1
Who is responsible for the CRIS platform?

- Library: 47%
- Governing Bodies: 11%
- External Providers: 2%
- Research Service: 33%
- IT Service: 5%
- Not sure: 2%

Who is responsible for the financial support of CRIS?

- Library: 2%
- Schools: 2%
- Governing Bodies: 7%
- External Providers: 25%
- Research Service: 53%
- IT Service: 2%
- Not sure: 7%
- Other: 2%

Who is responsible for entering data in the CRIS?

- Library: 49%
- Schools: 16%
- External Providers: 13%
- Research Service: 4%
- IT Service: 2%
- Not sure: 9%

Who is responsible for validating metadata in CRIS?

- Library: 36%
- Schools: 33%
- External Providers: 11%
- Research Service: 7%
- IT Service: 4%
- Not sure: 5%
- Other: 4%
Who is responsible for generating internal reports and extracting data for the units?

- Library: 5%
- Schools: 2%
- Governing Bodies: 2%
- External Providers: 2%
- Research Service: 2%
- IT Service: 2%
- Not sure: 13%
- Other: 67%

Who is responsible for project management?

- Governing Bodies: 53%
- Research Service: 11%
- IT Service: 7%
- Not sure: 2%
- Other: 2%

Who is responsible for Open Access, copyright and deposit in the CRIS?

- Library: 62%
- Governing Bodies: 27%
- Research Service: 5%
- IT Service: 2%
- Not sure: 2%
- Other: 2%

¿Who is responsible for preparing bibliometric reports and supporting evaluation?

- Library: 18%
- Governing Bodies: 12%
- Research Service: 12%
- IT Service: 6%
- Not sure: 3%
- Other: 49%
Libraries have the primary responsibility with regards to open access, copyright and deposit associated with CRIS (in 62% of cases), as well as to the preparation of bibliometric reports and evaluation support (in 40%) and to the validation of metadata (in 35%). To a lesser extent, some libraries are also involved in the introduction of data in the CRIS, as well as in the generation of internal reports and data extraction for the units (in 13% in both cases) and are responsible for the CRIS application in the institutions (in 11% of cases). Finally, it should be noted that one library, that of the University of Navarra, offers financial support to the CRIS, and the library of the Autonomous University of Madrid is responsible for the configuration of the CRIS and its technical maintenance.
Improvements to be introduced in the CRIS

- Improving interoperability with other management systems (35%)
- CRIS integration with the Institutional Repository (33%)
- Creating a public research portal (14%)
- Increasing the involvement of the Library (6%)
- Other (12%)
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Projects underway to improve CRIS

- New Researcher Portal
- Transfer from external systems
- CRIS integration with the Management System
- New version of CRIS application
- Change of CRIS application
- CRIS integration with the Institutional Repository
- Migration to Universitas XXI (OCU)
- More powerful project manager
Some conclusions

Libraries participate in the management of CRIS in 21 universities, that is, in 47% of the universities that have a CRIS

Researchers need additional resources and an important support for the activity log in the CRIS

Activities are validated in most universities, 36 (80%), although in many of them only some activities are validated

67% of CRIS have a public portal. The enrollment of researchers is mandatory in 54% of CRIS

Libraries dedicate 7 full-time people and 264 part-time people in tasks related to CRIS

Although almost all publications are recorded in the CRIS, the scientific data are currently non-existent

There is still no real integration between institutional repositories and CRISs (only 14.31%, state that they are integrated)

Libraries have the primary responsibility with regards to open access, copyright and deposit associated with CRIS (in 62% of cases), as well as to the preparation of bibliometric reports and evaluation support (in 40%) and to the validation of metadata (in 35%).
The raw and anonymized data have been published in *e-science Data*, the Research Data Repository of the Madroño Consortium, and are accessible via its DOI: https://doi.org/10.21950/NX2X58
Thank you very much.

Especially for participating in the survey and making this report possible.