Decentralization and duplication: Research information management in the United States

Rebecca Bryant, PhD
Senior Program Officer,
OCLC Research Library Partnership
bryantr@oclc.org  @RebeccaBryant18
https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2753-3881

Pablo de Castro
euroCRIS Secretary / Open Access Advocacy Library,
University of Strathclyde
Pablo.de-castro@strath.ac.uk  @pcastromartin
https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6300-1033
OCLC: A global network of libraries

As of 01 January 2022

OCLC: A global network of libraries

Americas
21,075 members in 30 countries

EMEA
5,513 members in 71 countries

Asia Pacific
2,575 members in 22 countries
The OCLC Research Library Partnership supports collaboration and learning among a transnational group of research libraries.

- Devoted to challenges facing libraries and archives since 1978
- Aims to scale and accelerate library learning, innovation, and collaboration
- oc.lc/research

oc.lc/joinRLP
## Research Information Management in the United States

### Methodology

- Case study approach
- 5 US research universities with a diversity of:
  - Uses
  - Products
  - Scale
  - Stakeholders
- Semi-structured interviews with 39 individuals at 8 institutions

### Case study institutions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Penn State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas A&amp;M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia Tech</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UCLA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Miami</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Research Information Management in the United States

**Project Team**

- Rebecca Bryant, PhD, OCLC Research, co-PI
- Jan Fransen, University of Minnesota, co-PI
- Pablo de Castro, euroCRIS & Strathclyde University
- Brenna Helmstutler, Syracuse University
- David Scherer, Carnegie Mellon University

**Goals**

- Differentiate US RIM practices from those in Europe
- Identify US uses and unite
- Offer recommendations to institutional leaders
- Demonstrate the central role of the library
- Accelerate collaboration & innovation by encouraging vendor-agnostic community of practice
What the %$&! is Research Information Management?

Research Information Management (RIM) systems support the transparent aggregation, curation, and utilization of data about institutional research activities.
USE CASES
### 6 high level RIM use cases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Use Case</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Public portal</strong></td>
<td>- Public profiles&lt;br&gt;  - Promotes expertise discovery, reputation management, economic development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Metadata reuse</strong></td>
<td>- Using to update faculty web pages, etc.&lt;br&gt; - Reduces data re-entry, saves time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Strategic reporting &amp; decision support</strong></td>
<td>- Reports, visualizations, &amp; dashboards&lt;br&gt;  - Ex: accreditation, grant preparation, strategic planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Faculty activity reporting (FAR)</strong></td>
<td>- Workflows for annual academic review &amp;/or P&amp;T processes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Open access workflow</strong></td>
<td>- Streamlines process for depositing OA content, harmonizing metadata between RIMS &amp; Repository</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Compliance monitoring</strong></td>
<td>- In response to institutional or national policies&lt;br&gt;  - Most prominent outside US&lt;br&gt;  - Tracking to ensure both individual &amp; institutional compliance with external requirements</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Research Information Management (RIM) systems support the transparent aggregation, curation, and utilization of data about institutional research activities.
Why so confusing?

Lots of stakeholders
• . . . In a complex university environment
• They often know little about what other stakeholders are doing

Disparate use cases
• Each system is often developed to support a single use case
• Separate communities have evolved

Few national mandates
• RIM systems are rarely used for compliance monitoring in the US (for now)
Most institutions have multiple RIM systems, supporting multiple uses

Key:
- Public portal
- FAR
- OA Workflow

Penn State:
- Research portal (Pure)
- Activity Insight (Digital Measures)
- Researcher Metadata Database (homegrown)

Texas A&M:
- Scholars@TAMU (Elements/VIVO)
- Interfolio

Virginia Tech:
- eFARS (Elements)

UCLA:
- UCLA Profiles (Profiles RNS)
- Opus (homegrown/Interfolio)
- UC Publication Management System (Elements)

University of Miami:
- Research Profiles (Pure)
- Florida ExpertNet (homegrown)
- Scholarship@Miami (Esploro)
RIM SYSTEM FRAMEWORK
3 RIM systems supporting 5 use cases

**Research Portal**
- **Public portal:** expertise discovery & research showcase, with profiles for about 5,500 researchers
- Managed by research office & medical college

**Activity Insight**
- Supports Faculty activity reporting (FAR) for >7,000 faculty on 24 campuses
- Managed by library
  - Library supports data entry

**Researcher Metadata Database (RMD)**
- Supports institutional OA workflow
- Aggregates metadata from Pure & Activity Insight
- Supports strategic reporting & metadata reuse
- Managed by library

Home grown
Subscribe to the OCLC Research blog, Hanging Together

- The blog of OCLC Research
- We authored a series just on the RIM in the US reports, available at https://hangingtogether.org/tag/rim-in-the-united-states/
- We invite you to subscribe
Decentralization and duplication:
Research information management in the United States

Rebecca Bryant, PhD
Senior Program Officer,
OCLC Research Library Partnership
bryantr@oclc.org  @RebeccaBryant18
https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2753-3881

Pablo de Castro
euroCRIS Secretary / Open Access Advocacy Library,
University of Strathclyde
Pablo.de-castro@strath.ac.uk  @pcastromartin
https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6300-1033