“Connecting the dots”
A report from the US International Forum on Expert Finder Systems

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What is the Expert Finder Systems Forum?

• Volunteer organized
• Growing community of practice around RIM systems in the US
• https://expertfindersystems.org/
History of the EFS Forum

2019
• Inaugural conference
• Orlando, Florida
• 70 attendees

2021
• Virtual conference
• 245 attendees
• 4 sponsors

2022
• 3-part webinar series

April 2023
• Miami, Florida
• 108 attendees
• 9 sponsors
About that name...

Diffuse terminology

- Research Information Management System (RIMS)
- Researcher Profile System
- Expert Finder System (EFS)
- Research Information System (RIS)
- Research Networking System (RNS)
- Faculty Activity Reporting (FAR) system
- Faculty Information System (FIS)

“Expert finder systems”
What the %$&! is Research Information Management?

Research Information Management (RIM) systems support the transparent aggregation, curation, and utilization of data about institutional research activities.

oc.lc/us-rim-report
International Forum on Expert Finders Systems

APRIL 5-6, 2023
CORAL GABLES MIAMI, FL

Call for Proposals

https://expertfindersystems.org/
Steering committee

Representation includes:

- RIM professionals
- Librarians
- Research administrators
- Researchers
- Product providers

Jeff Agnoli
Education, Funding and Research Development
Ohio State University, Office of Research
Subcommittee: Sponsor Recruitment Lead

Rebecca Augustyniak
Executive Director, Florida ExpertNet
Florida State University
Subcommittees: Website Lead, Registration, Venue

Ann Brayman
Lead Partnerships Manager
Clarivate
Subcommittee: Program

Rebecca Bryant, Secretary
Senior Program Officer
OCLC Research
Subcommittee: Program Lead

Washington Carvalho-Segundo
Computer Scientist
Coordinator, Laboratory of Methodologies for Treatment and Dissemination of Information
Brazilian Institute of Information in Science and Technology
Subcommittee: Evaluation

L. Bryan Cooper
Associate Dean, Libraries
Florida International University
Subcommittees: Sponsor Recruitment

Amy Finlev, Treasurer
Director, Florida ExpertNet
Florida State University
Subcommittees: Venue Lead, Website, Registration

Jan Fransen, Chair
Former Service Lead, Research Information Management Systems
University of Minnesota
Subcommittee: Evaluation Lead

Bruce Herbert
Director, Office of Scholarly Communications
Texas A&M University

Michelle Hutnik
Director, Research Analytics and Communications
Pennsylvania State University
Subcommittee: Program

Clarke Jokayskis
Scholarly Services Librarian
Oklahoma State University
Subcommittee: Program

Andrés Melgar
Principal Professor
Pontificia Catholic University of Peru
Subcommittee: Evaluation

Tina Moir
Sr. Director
Industry & Academic Relationships, Pure Elsevier
Subcommittee: Program

Matt Ramey
Metrics and Research Impact Specialist
National Center for Atmospheric Research
Subcommittee: Program

David Scherer
Customer Consultant for Pure & Data Monitor
Elsevier
Subcommittee: Program

Beside Stydia
Professor
School of Information - Florida's iSchool
Florida State University
Subcommittee: Program

Julia Trimmer
Former Director, Faculty Systems and Analysis
Duke University
Subcommittee: Communications Lead
Themes from the program

Reporting and analytics
- U Kentucky, Carnegie Mellon, Syracuse

Faculty activity reporting uses
- Virginia Tech, U Colorado

Cross-campus “social interoperability”
- Role of the library, “It takes a village”

State-wide efforts to support economic development
- Florida ExpertNet, Ohio Innovation Exchange
Keynote speakers

Jeff Agnoli, Senior Liaison, Ohio Innovation Exchange

Karen Estlund, Dean of Libraries, Colorado State University

Baron Wolf, AVP for Research & Director of Research Analytics, University of Kentucky
US characteristics

Multiple, siloed systems

Public portal = primary use case

Growth in other uses
Characteristics

Lots of stakeholders

Widespread use of Academic Analytics

State-wide portals

What unit(s) are involved in RIM activities at your organization? (Select all that apply)

- Academic college(s) 7%
- Academic department(s) 10%
- Graduate College 5%
- Institutional Research 12%
- IT 9%
- Library 18%

What product(s) is your organization using? (Select all that apply)

- Academic Analytics 17%
- Converis
- DSpace-CRIS 3%
- Esploro 5%
- Homegrown solution 13%
- Interfolio 10%
- Pure 16%
- Symplectic Elements 12%
- VIVO 7%
- Watermark Faculty Success 11%
- Other 7%
## Key findings

- US landscape is decentralized and duplicative
- Widespread confusion about RIM systems
- No national mandates
- Public portal is primary use case
- RIM systems can support an array of uses
- Libraries are frequently involved
What’s next?

Launch Digital Commons repository

Recruit new steering committee

Address name

Explore non-profit incorporation

Support a growing community of practice
What’s next?

Continued RIM growth in US

Move beyond public profile use case

More compliance monitoring due to federal mandates?

Increasing merging of product categories
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