Exploring the Boundaries of CRIS Systems

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What are CRIS systems?

A current research information system (CRIS) is a database or other information system to store, manage and exchange contextual metadata for the research activity funded by a research funder or conducted at a research performing organisation (or aggregation thereof).

CRIS systems are also known as Research Information Management or RIM Systems (RIMS).

Double function:

- Visibility: “showcasing research”
- Internal analysis: evidence-based decision making

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Current_research_information_system
Are research portals CRIS systems?

UCM
SCIENTIFIC
PRODUCTION PORTAL

What is the UCM Scientific Production Portal?
It is the reference portal designed to collect the scientific production of the UCM with a double function: firstly, to study and to analyse it to enlarge its audience and visibility and secondly, to support our teachers in the actions needed to improve the presence and impact of UCM research. It also aims to give help and support to the management bodies and the entire university community on the scientific activity developed by our University.

8,608
Researchers

585
Groups

3,335
Projects

351,627
Publications

40,832
Theses

130,296
Open access
Two main configurations for VIVO systems in the DRIS

- VIVO as a *standalone* Research Information Management System
- VIVO as a research portal *on top of a ‘monolithic’ CRIS* (such as Converis, IRIS, Pure, SIGMA Research or UXXI-INV)

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Software

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Software</th>
<th>Count</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VIVO</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Converis + VIVO</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRIS</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UXXI-INV + VIVO</td>
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VIVO

An official registered service provider of VIVO

Contact us

https://clarivate.com/webofsciencegroup/solutions/vivo/
Synergies between RIM and RMA

**RIM**
- output / final products
- outreach

**RMA**
- follows research processes
- internal/external purposes
  - outreach, monitoring, benchmarking
  - QA, increased collaboration, …
‘Community management’ activity by euroCRIS

Because euroCRIS is the sole organisation that maintains a comprehensive Directory of Research Information Systems (DRIS), we often get queries from universities and research centres regarding the systems that may best fit their needs.
‘Community management’ activity by euroCRIS

Critically, these queries do not just address (outwards-oriented) CRIS solutions, but also internal project management solutions that do not necessarily have a publicly available interface – this is the ‘RMA side’ of the workflow.

From a euroCRIS perspective, this ‘RMA side’ – and the software solutions that support it – are also part of this ‘community management’ activity. However, there are challenges when trying to capture this as part of the CRIS landscape.
1. RIM and RMA jointly explored by euroCRIS and EARMA

Joint euroCRIS/EARMA webinar: "RIM v RMA: Mutual areas of interest between Research Information Management (RIM) and Research Management and Administration (RMA) professionals"

**Draft event programme**

**Session introduction** by Chair (Pablo de Castro, euroCRIS)

**Presentations** (10-15 min slots for each of them, titles TBC):

- Sadia Vancauwenbergh (euroCRIS President) on "Research Information Management"
- Simon Kerridge (EARMA) on "Research Management and Administration"
- Lindsay Ramage (Edinburgh Napier University) on "The view from an institution"
- Jon Hackney (Worktribe) on "The vendor's perspective"

**40-60-min round table** led by session chair with all presenters plus Erika Lilja (University of Turku, Finland). Questions will be taken from event attendees

[https://eurocris.org/joint-eurocrisearma-webinar-rim-v-rma-mutual-areas-interest-between-research-information-management](https://eurocris.org/joint-eurocrisearma-webinar-rim-v-rma-mutual-areas-interest-between-research-information-management)
Systems aim to cover **whole** research project lifecycle...
... but internal system modules cannot be seen from outside

Worktribe Research Management System (RMS)

Log-in to the Worktribe Research Management System

Edinburgh Napier's Research Management System (RMS), Worktribe, provides a full cradle to grave solution to support developing research applications, reporting on our research outputs, research ethics and preparing for future Research Excellence Framework (REF) submissions, as well as providing a platform to promote our research and research staff through the University website.

System Access

The system can be accessed at https://napier-research.worktribe.com using your normal University user ID and password.

Worktribe is accessed through University single sign on using your usual Napier staff ID and password.

https://staff.napier.ac.uk/services/research-innovation-office/rms/Pages/RMS-Introduction.aspx
Research *visibility vs management*

Thanks to decades of experience and by using our rapid development toolboxes **MCSS** and **News Channel**, we quickly and cost effectively deploy highly customized solutions used as:

- Research Information Systems
  (Projects, Publications, Achievements)
- Quantitative and qualitative Reporting tools/ Annual Report
- Grants Management Systems
- Compliance Systems
- Archiving Systems
- Audition Management Systems
- Critical Incident Management Systems
- News Portals

We deliver tailor made solutions for colleges and universities such as University of Zürich, University of Basel, University of St. Gallen, Hochschule Luzern and many more.

[https://www.matchingneeds.com/index.php#matchingneeds](https://www.matchingneeds.com/index.php#matchingneeds)
Can ‘invisible’ systems from the outside be considered CRIS?

Edinburgh Napier University pilots innovative post-award research management functionality

New research management features have allowed Edinburgh Napier University to:

- Accurately record research and outputs in one system.
- Easily make research discoverable for Open Access compliance.
- Confidently check and report on REF compliance.
Some considerations on ‘the boundaries of CRIS systems’

- With an ever-expanding functional scope for CRIS, it may be worth ‘opening’ DRIS to RMA-focused systems as long as there is some evidence on how they work. This could be via case studies, which could be provided by institutions, vendors or both.
- A CRIS system should (ideally) include a research portal even if a research portal alone may not constitute a CRIS.
- Geographic environments – such as the US – where reporting is not a major CRIS function provide additional food for thought when considering what a CRIS is and what it’s not.

What Is the Faculty Activity Reporting System?

The Faculty Activity Reporting system (FARs) exists to comply with requirements outlined in the appropriation bill enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The bill mandates that the University collect and report data on faculty activities and average weekly workloads each term.
Thanks!

Questions?

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