

## CRIS and IR ... who's driving?

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### ***Introduction***

This position paper is a result of my involvement as designer, developer, project manager and data architect of information systems to manage and promote research at the University of St Andrews from 2002 onwards. Moving from industry I discovered a whole new world of siloed processes, applications and data sets with academic freedom pitted against the institutional drive for better quality research information. Good quality, timely and comprehensive data is required to inform strategy, to comply with funder mandates and to submit to the government for evaluation: the latter determining the allocation of over £1.5 billion within the UK.

### ***What we have***

At St Andrews we have a state-of-the-art CERIF-CRIS linked directly to a dSpace institutional repository. The CRIS data model includes Persons (staff and students), Organisations (internal - schools, departments, research centres; external – funders, publishers, collaborators), Projects, Publications, Patents and Events. The time-stamped, role-based relationships between these objects create Research Activities (such as conference participation and membership of learned societies) and allow us to build up evidence of the Impact of research.

Data on Persons, Organisations and Projects is synchronised with our central administrative systems providing [institutional] authority control of authors, for example. Publication metadata is imported from online sources (such as Web of Science) or entered manually. Full-text can be included and, following appropriate copyright checks by our library staff, is pulled through to dSpace together with a subset of metadata from the CRIS.

We have over 20,000 publications but ... only a handful of full text items in the IR ... our institutional drive has not been Open Access.

### ***Why we have it***

Our institutional drive has been (and still is) to improve research information management in order to improve strategic decision-making, reduce duplication of effort (i.e. cut costs) and to comply with current and forthcoming research assessments. Information management principles underpin this effort : the definition of master data sets [golden source], the allocation of data stewardship and

responsibility, the availability and accessibility of data [can the end user get data when they need it and can they understand it?], the use of standards and authoritative data sources.

Research, together with teaching, is the core activity of the University. The CERIF-CRIS sits at its heart bringing data from central administrative units, researchers and external data sources together and providing services to researchers, schools, management, collaborators, funders, evaluators, industry and the general public. In our model these users interact with a single system and are supported by a cross-unit team from the Research office, IT and the Library: this team having worked in close co-operation and with shared objectives for several years.

### ***Going forward***

Open Access has now moved up the agenda at St Andrews, particularly with funder mandates beginning to filter through. We have the compliance infrastructure in place and can link publication metadata, full-text, project and funder. We already have a link to the SHERPA-Romeo database providing information on publisher and journal OA policies and plan to link to SHERPA-Juliet for funder policies.

### ***So who is driving?***

From an institutional point of view the need to comply with assessment exercises has driven CERIF-CRIS to the top of the agenda in the UK. From an individual researcher's point of view assessment is here to stay and anything that cuts out key strokes, such as the reuse of data, is a bonus. Funder Open Access mandates are another stick that is beginning to hit the institutions where it hurts and will boost the full-text content in IRs.

So now we have two drivers .. for us at St Andrews this is no problem as we have always had one car with CRIS and IR sitting side by side. My position is that this is now the only way to travel ... and we should concentrate our efforts on working together to improve interoperability between CRIS and IR. We should not waste time arguing who should be in the driving seat!

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