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Title: Supporting ORCID Integration in Open Research Infrastructure via the ORCID Global Participation Fund

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I. Introduction and Context

In the evolving landscape of research evaluation, Current Research Information Systems (CRIS) have transitioned from being localized administrative tools to serving as critical hubs for interoperable, open research information. As noted by de Castro (2021), this shift is driven by the need for systems to serve as integrative platforms that link persistent identifiers (PIDs) to national and international reporting requirements. For open-source CRIS solutions, maintaining high-quality, authenticated links between researchers and their outputs is no longer optional; it is essential to meet the global standards of transparency and sustainability.

Maintaining these standards, however, presents a significant operational challenge. Their community-driven nature often prioritizes core functionality over specialized developments. Without dedicated resources, sustaining robust PID integrations becomes difficult when balanced against competing community needs.

To fill this gap, ORCID launched the Global Participation Program (GPP). The program is driven by the goal of enabling the adoption of ORCID in under-represented regions, ensuring that research data remains trusted, FAIR and globally visible.

A core component of the GPP initiative is the Global Participation Fund (GPF), which provides targeted financial support through two grant programs. The Grants for Technical Integration funds software development to build and update ORCID integrations in open-source systems, ensuring that high-quality, "out-of-the-box" functionality is available to all institutions. This is complemented by Grants for Community Development and Outreach, which support local partners in building "Communities of Practice" to ensure these technical tools are effectively adopted (ORCID, 2024a).

II. Impact on Global Research Infrastructure

The GPF specifically targets open-source systems widely adopted in under-represented regions, helping platforms such as VIVO and DSpace-CRIS meet ORCID Certified Service Provider (CSP) standards. To achieve certification, a CRIS system must implement a rigorous OAuth-based authentication process, ensuring the system collects verified IDs rather than unauthenticated text strings. This authentication process ensures the correct attribution between researchers and their contributions. Furthermore, the integration must support bidirectional data exchange, allowing the CRIS system to retrieve data from ORCID to populate internal profiles and write validated metadata (in particular, affiliation, works and funding metadata) back to the registry. Some also add other researcher identifiers, particularly at a national level, converting the record into a hub of interoperable identifiers (Brown and Meadows, 2025). This verified

metadata flow is critical for reducing the manual reporting burden on researchers while increasing the global visibility of contributions (ORCID, 2024b).

Beyond the financial assistance, GPF's awardees act as dedicated champions for these integrations, providing the focused leadership and development oversight needed to ensure projects reach completion. This dedicated stewardship ensures that ORCID and PID standards remain a priority within open-source roadmaps, fostering long-term technical sustainability.

III. Conclusion

The GPF provides the technical foundation for open-source CRIS platforms to evolve into active integrity hubs that generate and propagate authoritative, verified metadata. By funding these integrations, the GPF ensures that these systems support seamless interoperability between institutional systems and ORCID. This shift ensures that research metadata remains high-quality, serving as a reliable record of scholarly activity that is not dependent on proprietary silos. By lowering technical barriers, ORCID ensures that all institutions—regardless of their geographical location or resource level—can participate in a FAIR-compliant, open infrastructure. This strengthens the global research ecosystem by fostering transparent connections and ensuring that institutional research outputs are findable and accessible to the international community.

This poster shows how targeted funding and open-source collaboration can bridge the participation gap, creating a global research network that is more resilient, inclusive, and built on trusted data.

References

- **de Castro, P. (2021).** *The CRIS/IR merger: a standard for open research information.* <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11192-021-04146-5>
- **Brown, J., & Meadows, A. (2025).** It's "ORCID and...", not "ORCID or...": How researcher identifiers work together to help researchers, build a better picture of research, and streamline administrative tasks. Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15737460>
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