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Title:

Impact of doctoral students' research activities on CRIS systems

Keywords:

CRIS, PhD, Doctoral, Doctorate, Impact, Research, Students, Researchers

Abstract

The Spanish regulatory framework governing university doctoral studies, establishes that, for all purposes, PhD students are researchers in training and, as such, all the activities carried out by these students during their training as doctors, must be recorded. These activities must be detailed in a formal "doctoral activity document" (DAD) that serves to evaluate the student. If these students are considered, to all intents and purposes, researchers (in training), their activities (all or some of them) should be part of the scientific production of the institution and, therefore, be included in their CRIS systems. This presentation aims to analyse how the research activities carried out during the doctoral training period impact, or may impact, on CRIS systems.

Extended Abstract:

The Spanish regulatory framework, established in [RD99/2011](#), which regulates official doctoral studies, highlights the importance of doctorate as a tool that strengthens the link between the European Higher Education Area and the European Research Area.

This new regulatory framework aims to give special relevance to research, establishing it as an integral part of higher education. This allows for a change of perspective that blurs the traditional label of doctoral students for participants in doctorate programmes and assigns them the category of researchers-in-training. This new categorisation implies a set of rights described in [The European Charter for Researchers](#), that led to the creation of [RD63/2006](#), which regulates the figure of the researcher-in-training through the Statute of Research Staff in Training, [RD103/2019](#).

RD99/2011 also provide for the creation of Doctoral Schools with the aim of organising doctoral teaching and related activities. These schools must guarantee that they develop their own strategy linked to the university's research strategy and accredit adequate management capacity for their purposes.

Finally, it introduces the Doctoral Activities Document (DAD), an individualised record of all the research activities carried out by a researcher-in-training, that serves to evaluate his or her doctoral studies.

This new paradigm, in which doctoral students are no longer seen only as students, but as researchers-in-training, generates a greater need for control and traceability of the activities carried out throughout the doctorate and opens up a range of possibilities for rethinking what can be considered as scientific output and, therefore, if it should be recorded as such in the universities' research information systems (the CRIS).

So far, most CRIS systems tend to collect the Theses that have been supervised by university researchers, but not, for example, Theses that are carried out at the university.

All the scientific activities carried out by these researchers-in-training, including their theses, can become part of the university's research output, as well as that of the research groups, increasing the visibility and impact. Given that CRIS should be the central repository of the organisation's research activity, all this information, in turn, can be reused for other personal websites, group websites, department websites, etc.

In addition, it allows this researcher-in-training to start building his or her CV as a researcher even before obtaining a PhD degree.

A distinction will be made between the activities of researchers in training who in turn have a contract with the university to carry out funded grants or projects, and those who have no contractual link or affiliation with the university, but who also carry out research activities: publications, participation in congresses, editorial collaborations, etc. The latter are those who do not usually have information recorded in the CRIS systems.

This presentation aims to highlight the scientific activities carried out in the framework of doctorate programmes by researchers-in-training, and how this scientific output can be collected and reflected in research information systems (CRIS), allowing for quantitatively and qualitatively improved data extraction and analysis. To do this, it will analyse what is understood by research output in various Spanish universities, how this information is recorded and what uses are made of it.

The aim is to reflect the state of the art of the research activity carried out in the framework of doctorate programmes in Spain, as well as to analyse the use of all this information in the research information systems (CRIS).

References:

- [1] Statute of Research Staff in Training: <https://www.boe.es/buscar/doc.php?id=BOE-A-2019-3700>
- [2] Official doctoral studies: <https://www.boe.es/buscar/act.php?id=BOE-A-2011-2541>
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