

ORCID myths and misconceptions, and the search for truth in the context of current research information systems (CRIS)

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Introduction

In the evolving landscape of research management and scholarly communication, the strategic adoption of digital tools, platforms, and Persistent Identifiers (PIDs) plays a crucial role in adhering to FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable) principles, promoting Open Science practices, and ensuring a robust research infrastructure (Demeranville, 2018).

PIDs, such as ORCID (Open Researcher and Contributor ID) and Current Research Information Systems (CRIS), such as Pure, have become fundamental in uniquely identifying researchers and efficiently managing research outputs.

Our presentation aims to dispel prevalent myths and misconceptions around ORCID, explore the synergy between ORCID and CRIS, and point out effective strategies to enhance the interoperability between ORCID and CRIS.

Background

Persistent identifiers (PIDs) have established themselves as a key element of the open research infrastructure. Their value and usefulness go beyond just another metadata field. Among other things, PIDs contribute to the machine-readability of data referring to different entities in the research ecosystem, facilitate interoperability between systems and help in the process of FAIRification of data, metadata and infrastructures.

ORCID's mission is to enable transparent and trustworthy connections between researchers, their contributions, and their affiliations by providing a unique, persistent identifier for individuals to use as they engage in research, scholarship, and innovation activities.¹

Well-managed ORCID records can be key elements in assessing data management and research data quality, since they link researchers and their contributions unambiguously (Marín-Arraiza, 2019). One example can be found in Portugal, where ORCID is used as a central hub to guarantee data consistency when synchronizing the national CRIS Systems (Lopes, 2019).

A CRIS is a vital tool for a modern research organization. It places research information in a rich context, pulling together data from external resources and augmenting information from within the organization, providing an overview of researchers' body of work, and helping the organization to understand and analyze their research performance.

ORCID has an ongoing partnership with the CRIS community. ORCID's strong strategic partnership with EuroCRIS has helped shape our work to address the needs of the CRIS community (Brown, 2016).

Considering this, ORCID complements the functionality of CRIS by providing a comprehensive overview of researchers' work and facilitating organizational research performance analysis.

Despite the importance of CRIS systems and ORCID, several myths and misconceptions about ORCID's role and its integration with CRIS persist, potentially hindering the optimization of research information exchange and aggregation. This paper aims to clarify these misconceptions, explore the synergies between ORCID and CRIS, and discuss the implications for stakeholders across the research ecosystem.

Objectives

In this presentation we focus on:

- Identifying and debunking prevalent myths and misconceptions around ORCID
- Examining the role of ORCID in the context of CRIS, particularly the benefits of an ORCID integration
- Pointing out best practices and success stories to enhance the interoperability between ORCID and CRIS.

Methods

Our approach integrates a thorough literature review and analysis of case studies (e.g. Lopes, 2019), with an emphasis on the ORCID integration in Pure, which has become the predominant CRIS in Austria.

Findings and Discussion

Our findings indicate that misconceptions about ORCID often stem from a lack of awareness about its capabilities and benefits, concerns over privacy, and confusion about its role concerning personal persistent identifiers.

These misconceptions can be addressed through targeted educational initiatives, clear communication about ORCID's privacy safeguards and its capacity to streamline research management processes. Furthermore, our presentation highlights successful integrations of ORCID with CRIS, demonstrating improved data quality, enhanced research visibility, and streamlined administrative processes.

Conclusion

Clarifying the myths and misconceptions surrounding ORCID and demonstrating its synergistic potential with CRIS are crucial steps towards a more integrated, efficient, and open research infrastructure. By enhancing the interoperability and utilization of ORCID within CRIS systems, the research community can achieve greater visibility, collaboration, and impact in the global scholarly landscape.

To use Bertrand Russell's words: "Even if the open windows of science at first make us shiver after the cozy indoor warmth of traditional humanizing myths, in the end the fresh air brings vigor, and the great spaces have splendor of their own."

References

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1 About ORCID: <https://info.orcid.org/what-is-orcid/>