

FRiDa: A Solution for the Post-CRIS Era?

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The [Fair Research Information Dashboard \(FRiDa\) project](#) was launched in 2023 at Groningen University and UMCG as an initiative to develop a data warehouse and BI dashboards for research intelligence and faculty management. Built on cloud infrastructure, FRiDa integrates data from 13 different sources, combining local systems such as AFAS and Pure with external information from funders, publishers, and dataset providers.

The system relies on Azure technologies, including Logic Apps, Databricks, and SQL Server, for its ETL process, while DevOps supports development and operations. Now that the infrastructure is fully in place, its potential is becoming increasingly clear. FRiDa offers an opportunity to improve data autonomy and streamline research data management through AI-powered automation. It can enhance data quality within our CRIS system, reducing manual input by automatically pushing curated data from the warehouse into CRIS while simultaneously monitoring record accuracy. By leveraging AI, FRiDa not only ensures higher data integrity but also reduces the workload for researchers and support staff. The platform also enables new possibilities, such as AI-powered chatbots that allow grant support officers to interact directly with funding data in an intuitive way.

As recent political, economic, and technological developments continue to shape the research landscape—and as Elsevier's direction with Pure raises concerns—the role of CRIS systems is coming into question. The current challenges surrounding data quality, the lack of significant development by vendors, and the increasing reluctance of researchers to manually enter data force us to rethink our approach. Do we still need a commercial CRIS system as the central integration point for research intelligence? Can it remain viable in its current form? Or could a data warehouse-driven approach provide a more flexible, future-proof alternative?