

Implementing a CRIS with Omega-PSIR

at the Medical University of Varna, Bulgaria

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Institutional Context

Medical University of Varna

As the **first university in Bulgaria to implement a CRIS at this scale**, MU-Varna is pioneering data-driven research management. It is a leading medical university with a comprehensive profile in health sciences and growing research output across clinical, biomedical, and public health disciplines.

The Need for CRIS

Initiated in 2016 to support institutional decision-making, national reporting, accreditation and internal researcher assessment. After evaluating Converis, Pure, and DSpace-CRIS, MU-Varna selected **Omega-PSIR** from Sages, developed at Warsaw University of Technology for its university-wide platform. Our choice was also driven by the limitations in the national CRIS system (registry of academic staff and dissertations

Organizational Structure

5 Faculties

Medicine, Dental Medicine,
Pharmacy, Public Health and
Language, Communications
and Sport

College & Affiliates

Medical College and Affiliates in
Shumen, Sliven and Veliko
Tarnovo, extending the
university's reach across the
region.

58 Departments and 45 ES

A complex network of over 50
academic departments and 40
educational sectors requiring
unified data management.

System Scope & Coverage

1,000+

Researchers
(100+ Professors; 200+
Assoc. Professors and 700
Assistant Professors)

2,800+

Indexed Publications
(WoS & Scopus)

7,000+

Total Publications
(Historical Record)

Strategy: "Coverage-first" approach. Initial focus on assembling an authoritative record of recent outputs (WOS/Scopus 2020-2024) to support immediate reporting needs.

Technical Setup & Integrations



Deployment

On-premise Omega-PSIR deployment to align with institutional data governance and privacy requirements.



Integrations

Scopus, Web of Science, Crossref/DataCite and PubMed for metadata. BibTex/RIS import DSpace integration with IR.



Localization

Multilingual UI (Bulgarian/English, etc.). Working towards "language of record = language of metadata" policy.

The Disambiguation Challenge

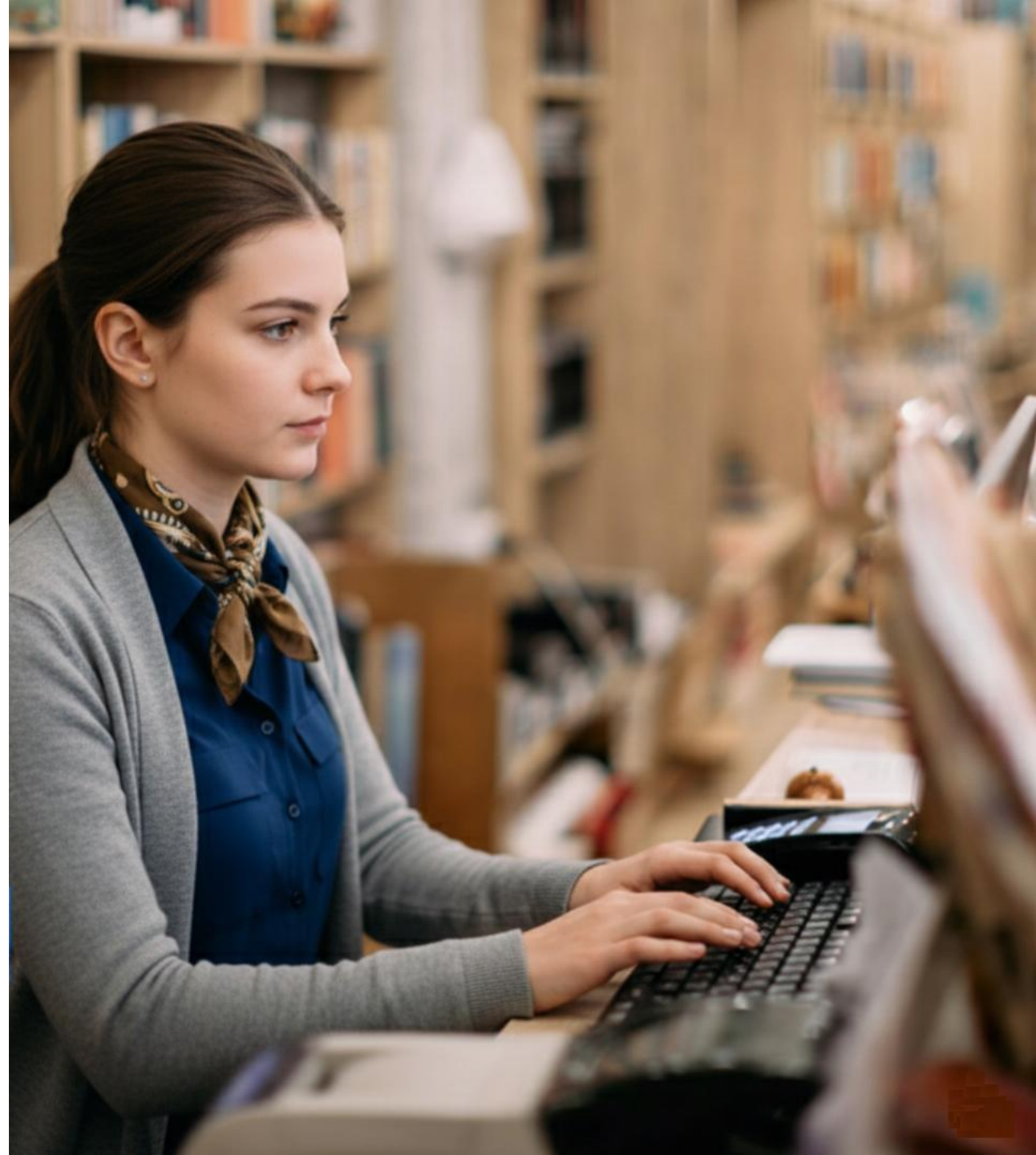
Transliteration Issues

Bulgarian naming conventions present significant challenges for automatic disambiguation. A single name like "Георги" can appear as:

- **Georgi** (Standard)
- **George** (Anglicized)
- **Gueorgi** (French influence)

Current Solution

A curator-led approach using manual review and authority control. Future plans involve automating first name disambiguation.



Strategic Drivers



National Reporting: Provide authoritative data for ministry reports, including journal quartiles and publication and citation metrics.



Accreditation: Streamline evidence gathering for institutional departmental and program portfolios.



Internal Analytics: Enable leadership to monitor research trends and performance KPIs.



Open Science: Improve visibility through persistent identifiers and interoperable metadata.

Goal

To transition from manual data gathering to an automated, evidence-based ecosystem.

Adoption

Expanding use to Project Departments and PhD Schools for monitoring and reporting.

Researcher Evaluation & Attestation



Automating Assessment

MU-Varna is designing standardized evaluation forms generated directly from the CRIS to streamline accreditation and academic advancement.

- ✓ **Attestation Form:** Captures publication type, indexation status, citations, and h-index.
- 🎓 **Advancement Report:** tailored for Associate Professor and Professor degrees, including all necessary bibliometric requirements (publication type, citations, IF, h-index, etc.).
- ⚡ **Impact:** Reduces administrative burden and ensures data consistency and accuracy .

Implementation Roadmap

2016-2022

Strategic analysis & Search. Comparison of platforms (Pure, Converis, DSpace-CRIS). Selection of Omega-PSIR.



2023

Implementation. "Coverage-first" strategy. Import of Scopus/WoS records.



2024

Reporting. Delivery of Ministry reports (Quartiles) and project monitoring (MUVE).



2025

Launch. Presentations, Training videos, Self-import by researchers.

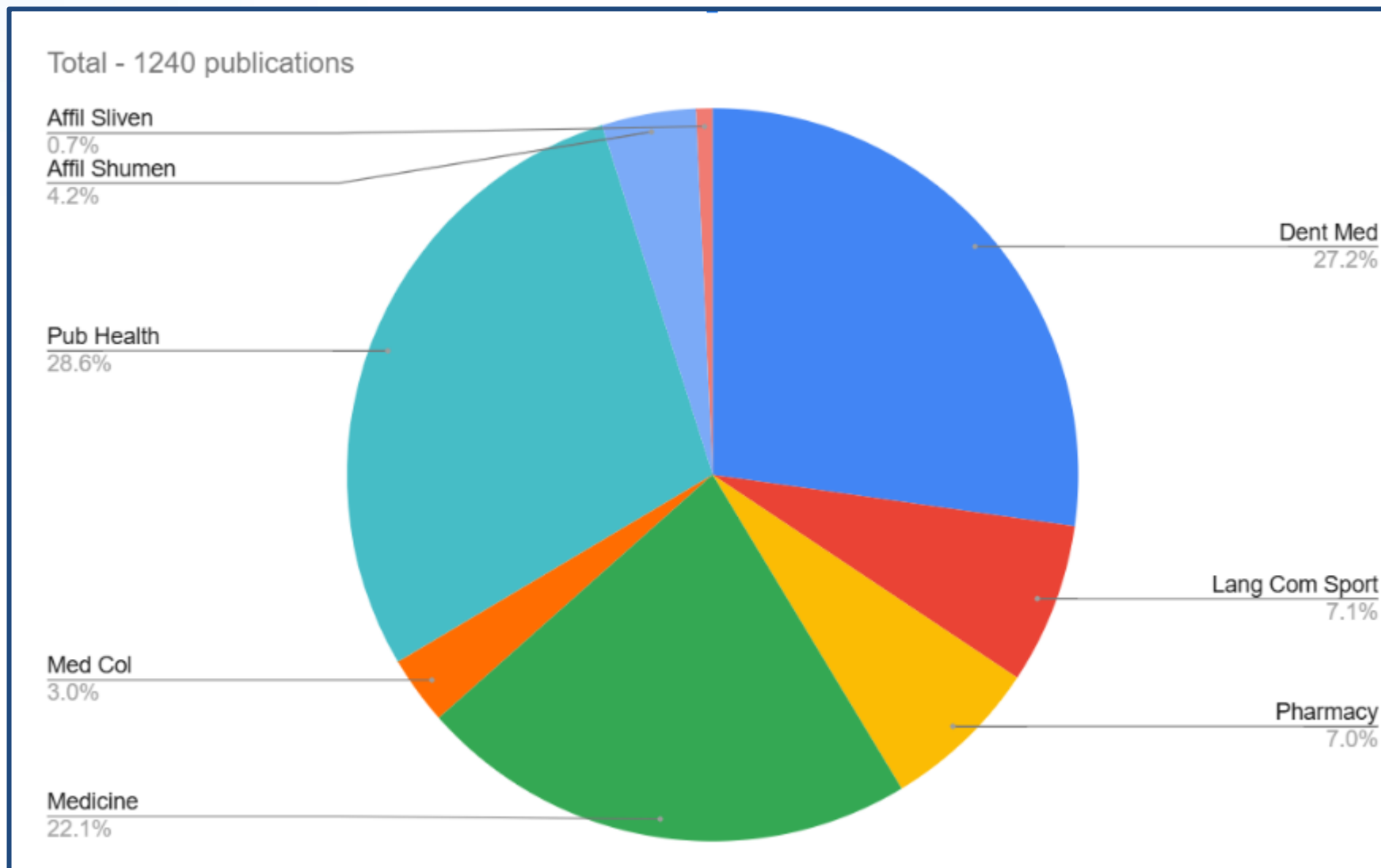


2025+

Expansion. Attestation forms, Decentralized curation, Bilingual metadata policy.



Self-Import Activity after System Launch



Current Publications by Unit

Medicine	4008
Public Health	1184
Pharmacy	1129
Dental Medicine	763
Medical College	436
Affiliate Shumen	158
Affiliate Sliven	118
Affiliate Veliko Tarnovo	97
Language, Communications and Sport	38

Lessons for the Community

Strategy

Begin with a well-defined subset of the data.

Demonstrate value early using recent information (past five years) before extending the scope to historical records. Align outputs with specific reporting requirements to ensure continued institutional support.

A Metadata & Identity

Clear separation between the user interface and the underlying metadata. Apply 'language of record' policies consistently to prevent descriptive drift. Identify potential transliteration challenges in advance and formalize guidelines for handling common variant forms.



Foundational Infrastructure Established

MU-Varna has successfully consolidated 6,500+ publications and linked them to 1,000+ researchers. The foundation is now set for fully automated institutional and individual researcher evaluation.

National Vision

We also aim to invite the research universities in Bulgaria — medical and general — to adopt this proven CRIS model. By standardizing research information management, we can build a unified, transparent, and interoperable national research ecosystem.

Thank You!

Questions & Discussion

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