The role of the library in the scientific information curation process in the CRIS, Ciência_Iscte

Ricardo Reiçadas[a], Teresa Segurado[b], Vera Batalha[c]

[a]Iscte – University Institute of Lisbon, Portugal, ricardo.reicadas@iscte-iul.pt

https://orcid.org/0009-0003-3948-7055

[b]Iscte – University Institute of Lisbon, Portugal, teresa.segurado@iscte-iul.pt

https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2966-6781

[c]Iscte – University Institute of Lisbon, Portugal, vera.batalha@iscte-iul.pt

Paper proposal

Abstract

For the academic and scientific community whose institutions have Current Research Information Systems (CRIS), it is essential that the scientific output deposited in the CRIS will be described responsibly and with quality, in accordance with best practices and the principles of Open Science. In the academic context, science is not limited to the stages of research or publication, but also encompasses the way information is organized, described, assessed, made available, reused, and preserved over time, tasks in which libraries play a central role.

High-quality and responsible metadata description – ensuring the integration of scientific content into reliable, coherent, transparent, and interoperable information systems, in line with the FAIR Principles – is fundamental for the academic and scientific assessment of researchers, particularly concerning the awarding of degrees, career progression, access to funding, performance evaluation, or personal and professional recognition by peers.

At Iscte – University Institute of Lisbon, the Library plays a key role in curating the metadata of the scientific output deposited in the institution's CRIS, Ciência_Iscte, contributing to the improvement and enrichment of metadata and, by enabling integration with the institutional repository, ensuring the accessibility and visibility of Iscte's scientific production and promoting the dissemination of knowledge to a wider audience.

This paper aims to present the curation work conducted by the Iscte Library in Ciência_Iscte and its integration with the institutional repository, through a set of qualitative and quantitative data that demonstrate the work developed in this context, during the period 2020–2025.

Keywords: Metadata curation, Ciência_Iscte, Current Research Information Systems (CRIS), Institutional repository, Open access, Academic libraries.

Text

This paper presents the relevance of the metadata curation work conducted by the Iscte – University Institute of Lisbon Library in the CRIS, Ciência_Iscte, and its integration with other local systems, namely the institutional repository, in compliance with open access and data management policies, as well as editorial policies.

Current Research Information Systems (CRIS) serve to collect and store research-related information including, among other elements, bibliographic metadata such as author information, affiliations, titles, abstracts, references, and publication sources, as well as metadata relating to research software, scientific data, samples, and instruments. Additionally, they include information on funding and research projects, such as organizations and researchers involved (Barcelona Declaration on Open Research Information, 2024; Schöpfel & Azeroual, 2024).

Ciência_Iscte, the scientific output management system of Iscte, developed and maintained by the institution's Information Systems Development Services, constitutes a strategic tool for organizing, managing, and valuing the research conducted by its researchers. It enables them to manage their own scientific output through the deposit of articles, books, book chapters, conference publications, among others, centralizing and structuring this information, avoiding its dispersion, and simultaneously ensuring visibility and alignment with open science policies.

The information deposited in Ciência_Iscte is subsequently shared with the remaining systems without any additional intervention from researchers. The system is responsible for disseminating the information to the performance assessment system, the institutional repository, and the web pages of Iscte's research centers (Lopes, 2019).

The library is responsible for verifying and enriching the metadata of the publications added to Ciência_Iscte, ensuring that the information is properly complemented, validated, and standardised according to international patterns. In addition, the library supports and advises researchers on issues related to the correct versions to deposit, access conditions, and compliance with institutional requirements. It also ensures the quality and reliability of scientific data, which is essential for interoperability with global scientific ecosystems aligned with the FAIR principles.

The curation work conducted by the library ensures compliance with editorial policies, the selection of the correct version of publications to deposit, and the definition of access type (open or embargoed), considering the interoperability between Ciência_Iscte and the institutional repository. The deposit in the institutional repository is conducted considering the Iscte research unit/department to which the researcher member belongs, as well as the type of document.

The connection between these two systems enables researchers to have their scientific output made available in several ecosystems through a single entry in Ciência_Iscte, as its dissemination in the institutional repository improves the accessibility and visibility of scientific production and promotes the dissemination of knowledge produced within the institution to a wider audience (Amante et al., 2015).

Given that it is increasingly easier for researchers to publish their scientific output in open access and without costs – whether through transformative agreements or the diamond route – an increase in the number of publications is expected. This growth should also result in a rise in deposits in Ciência_Iscte and, consequently, in the Repository.

The role of libraries in CRIS is of crucial importance, as by ensuring transparency and high-quality metadata, they directly contribute to enhancing the accessibility and visibility of scientific production. Moreover, when findings research is rigorously and comprehensively described, they increase the probability of them being cited, thereby strengthening scientific impact, and influencing evaluation processes, career progression, and access to funding (Schöpfel & Azeroual, 2024).

In this context, this paper presents the essential role of the Iscte Library in the process of curating and validating metadata of the scientific output of its researchers, ensuring the quality of the information and the interoperability with the institutional repository and other external systems, guaranteeing the availability, accessibility, and long-term preservation of Iscte's scientific production.

It is also intended to present some data on the validation/rejection rate of publications added to Ciência_Iscte and exported to the institutional repository during the period 2020–2025. This period is marked by significant changes in open science policies, the growth in the use of AI, transformations in publishing models, and a greater institutionalisation of open access.

References

Amante, M. J., Lopes, S., Marçal, B., & Segurado, T. (2015, outubro 21-23). *Partilhar ciência: O repositório do ISCTE-IUL e a interoperabilidade com um sistema CRIS* [Apresentação de comunicação]. 12º Congresso da BAD: Ligar. Transformar. Criar valor. Associação Portuguesa de Bibliotecários, Arquivistas, Profissionais da Informação e Documentação, Évora, Portugal. https://publicacoes.bad.pt/revistas/index.php/congressosbad/article/view/1269

Barcelona Declaration on Open Research Information. (2025). https://barcelona-declaration.org/

Lopes, A. L. (2019). Integrating a local CRIS with the PTCRIS synchronization ecosystem. *Procedia Computer Science*, *146*, 166–172. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.procs.2019.01.091

Schöpfel, J., & Azeroual, O. (2024). Responsible research assessment and research information management systems. *Encyclopedia*, *4*(2), 915–922. https://doi.org/10.3390/encyclopedia4020059