
EcoCRIS: Building CRISrael as Socio-Technical Ecosystem

A joint presentation by

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Current Research Information Systems (CRIS) are increasingly understood not merely as technical systems but as socio-technical infrastructures that connect institutions, funders, policymakers, researchers, and research support units (e.g., Moreira 2013; Mulhanga 2023). They underpin a wide range of strategic functions, including funding decisions, collaboration, research visibility, policy development, and assessment. Deploying a CRIS at the national level presents numerous challenges, including data fragmentation, institutional diversity, lack of standardization, and the complexity of aligning multiple stakeholder interests (Tsybenko and Zhrebchuk 2023).

This talk presents CRISrael, Israel's national CRIS initiative, as a case study in building a national-level assessment system grounded in the concept of the Current Research Information System as an ecosystem—or **EcoCRIS**. CRISrael is jointly led by Israel's nine public universities along with the Planning and Budgeting Committee (PBC), with technical and administrative support from the Inter-University Computation Center (IUCC). Launched in 2023, CRISrael is a national aggregated CRIS hosted on Elsevier's Pure Community Module, integrating data from nine autonomous institutional Pure systems.

In this presentation, we describe the governance and coordination mechanisms that enabled CRISrael to meet its multiple aims—chief among them serving as a foundation for national research assessment and a trusted platform for external visibility. Key

enablers include pre-agreed classification schemes, commonly adopted standards, and sustained collaboration among institutions.

We introduce the **EcoCRIS** framework to conceptualize these efforts, emphasizing the critical role of **Facilitators**—both human (e.g., CRIS librarians and administrators) and technical (e.g., collaboration and coordination platforms developed by IUCC). These facilitators form a living community of practice (Wenger, 2010), fostering collective learning, standardization, and “deep consent” (Lazar-Shoef, 2024) across institutions. Their coordinated work ensures that data quality, interoperability, and communication are upheld in a shared ecosystem that spans nine diverse universities.

This collaboration has been further supported by shared learning and hands-on engagement with Pure’s implementation and product teams, who helped curate documentation, align configurations, and develop tailored solutions. Together, these mechanisms established the socio-technical foundation necessary for successful implementation.

In this presentation, we outline five strategic development areas for sustaining a national EcoCRIS, drawn from IUCC’s experience and developed in close collaboration with Pure's product team:

- Enhancing data handling, processing, and diagnostic capabilities;
- Reassessing deduplication strategies for ecosystem-wide consistency;
- Promoting transparency and standardization across institutions;
- Establishing shared governance and communication frameworks;
- Strengthening portal features to support ecosystem-level research engagement.

The CRISrael case contributes to a growing body of experience in national CRIS design and implementation. It offers actionable insights for institutions and consortia across Europe and beyond, seeking to create sustainable, coordinated, and trusted national research infrastructures.

Bibliography

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