Find An Expert: Exploring Aggregated Research Identity

Subtext: from Identity and Access to Research Reputation

Since 2003 At the University of Melbourne, the quality of Information that we track on our Researchers has increased dramatically.
Institutional Knowledge of Researchers in 2003

- Themis
- Finance
- Research
  - Publications
  - Grants
  - Qualifications

HR Administration
- Person details
- (Qualifications)

Student
- Research Students

Faculties & Departments
- ePrints, Qualifications, Grants, & Publications

Institutional Knowledge of Researchers by the end of 2005

- THEMIS
- HR Administration
- Research
- Finance
- Person Details
- Qualifications
- Grants
- Publications

Staff Profiles

Information Services
- ePrints
In 2005-06, The University decided that a certain slice of the information that we collected internally could be communicated publicly.
Turning Administrative Data Inside Out: a web page for each academic.

Biography

Simon Porter

eScholarship Research Centre, Information services

Research Expertise and International Linkages

Simon Porter

eScholarship Research Centre, Information services
Turning Administrative Data Inside Out: a web page for each academic.

Qualifications, Honors, Fellowships, and Awards

Grants and Contracts
Turning Administrative Data Inside Out: a webpage for each academic.

Simon Porter  
eScholarship Research Centre, Information Services

Publications

Find an Expert: Allows you to find Experts by:

Simon Porter  
eScholarship Research Centre, Information Services

Government Research Classifications

A/PROF DAVID PHILLIPS

Publications

A/PROF SEAN THOMAS COONEY

Government Research Classifications

Research Fields, Courses and Discipline Classifications
- International Relations, BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT (0301)
- Comparative Law (0302)
- Labour Law (0301)

Socio-economic Objective Classifications
- Understanding social problems, LAW AND THE LAW (0399)
- Understanding law, LAW (0399)
Obviously, the University of Melbourne isn’t alone in this initiative...
How do initiatives such as Find an Expert change the way a University communicates its research identity?

The Obvious Ones:

The entire University Community has access to up-to-date information on our researchers

Media
International Relations
Faculty Planning

The quality of our data improves (because it is visible)
Simon Porter

Not so Obvious:
They play a key role in communicating aggregated research identity out to the public, and for some areas this is really important.

Not so Obvious:
They play a role in focusing a University’s web presence
Not so obvious: Aggregated information allows us to bridge information boundaries

Links to ePrints (and other open access sources)
Source it links for journals

Not so obvious:
It places stress on a University’s reporting structures

“I’m new to the University, and have 50 publications to declare. Who is going to put them into the system?”

“I have somebodies Gran/Contract incorrectly reported as mine. Who should I contact?”

“My professional name is not my legal name…”
### Responding to the Stresses:

It isn't enough to collect the information once.  

Quality information on this scale needs to be collected quickly, but with minimal risk of getting the details wrong.

### Problem:

The University is Still an information Silo.  

Hard to get information into the Silo  

We don't know anything about the external people that we collaborate with.
Observation:

The University’s Information Silo is constrained by its Identity and Access Framework

As research moves into the realm on virtual organizations, administration will follow...

In the future we should consider initiatives such as the AAF not just as a platform for enabling better collaboration in research (and teaching,) but also as a platform for a new more efficient forms of research administration, especially with regards to communicating research identity.