ORCID Integration: UNSW's Experience

Kate Byrne's presentation notes for ORCID Outreach Meeting, Canberra, February 2016

I am going to start with what I feel is the fairly safe assumption that everyone in this room knows what ORCID is. To achieve it's goals of disambiguating researchers and improving the flow of information about research activities around the world, ORCID has been designed to be interoperable with many other research systems and organisations. This allows ORCID to be integrated into systems maintained by funders, publishers and research institutions and exchange data with those systems.

ORCID integrations can reduce the time and effort required to maintain up-to-date records of research activities. Research organisations with integrated systems can receive automated feeds from ORCID on the research activities associated with ORCID profiles. With this data exchange in place, the workload to manage and maintain local systems with up to date research information can be significantly reduced.

There are two main types of ORCID integration. The first is a read-only integration, where a system just downloads information from ORCID. The second is a read-write integration where a system both sends and receives information to ORCID. Read-Write integration is primarily used by publisher platforms like Scopus or PubMed to feed information about new publications that have associated ORCID IDs back to ORCID.

UNSW has recently joined the newly formed Australian ORCID Consortium. In preparation for joining the consortium, on behalf of UNSW Library I formed an ORCID Integration Advisory Group to gather feedback from the UNSW community as to how ORCID should be integrated at UNSW. This group included stakeholders representing each of the research business units – like the grants management office – as well as research administrations and academics.

In addition to contributing to the development of our integration plan, the advisory group proved to be valuable opportunity for UNSW Library to engage more deeply with these stakeholders. The group's activities substantially raised awareness with these stakeholders about ORCID and why it is of value to our community. When you work with identifiers like

ORCID all the time it is easy to assume that colleagues working in other areas of research support will be up to date with these tools, but in my experience this isn't always the case. By engaging them in this process, we have created a network of ORCID champions who will help promote the use of ORCID within the UNSW community.

The UNSW ORCID integration strategy is happening in 3 steps. ROS, UNSW's instance of Symplectic Elements is the 'source of truth' for ORCID IDs at UNSW and as step one, we have integrated ROS with ORCID.

This is a read-only ORCID integration that also takes advantage of the data sources that download publication information into Elements. Now, once a researcher has added their ORCID to ROS the system will go away and search ORCID for the publication IDs of any items associated with that Researcher's ORCID. ROS can then use those publication IDs to download the publications into the researcher's ROS Profile. By downloading the publication from the original data source, we avoid duplication issues and also benefit from the additional metadata available from those sources, such as citation counts from Scopus or Web of Science.

We are at the beginning of our promotional campaign to the UNSW research community but will be using a multi-pronged approach to convince our researchers of the value of ORCID. Early feedback is positive and we are even finding some researchers have added their ORCID to ROS without prompting.

Step two of our integration strategy is to enhance our feeds to the UNSW data centre so that the ORCIDs collected in ROS and matched with our local authority system can be reused in downstream systems. We anticipate this is will be completed in the near future.

The final step of our integration will be to review integrations for our repository and research data management systems. These are significantly more complex systems which are undergoing work at the moment, so we decided to wait until that work completes before planning how best to integration with those systems.