McMaster Experts
Breakout Session

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McMaster IT Forum Breakout Session
11-October, 2018
Overview

- McMaster’s research information landscape
- McMaster Experts
  - What is it?
  - Project development
  - Information sources and profiles
  - Opportunities, challenges, next steps
- Final questions, demos & discussion
McMaster’s Research Information Landscape
Research Information: Information about researchers, their scholarly activities and output

- Education & Training
- Fields of expertise
- Language competencies
- Academic appointments
- Contact information
- Unique researcher IDs
- Websites / Social media
- About researchers

- Grants
- Other activities & Service [committees, media, etc.]
- Research overview
- Teaching overview
- Teaching activity
- Publications
- Co-author networks
- Supervision
- About their works
Where does McMaster's research information exist?

How is it managed and used?

How is it presented to the public?
Many places!

Faculty Webpages
External profiles
Centre/Institute Webpages
External Databases

Institutional Research & Analysis
Brighter World
Mosaic DW
Researcher Webpages

In a spreadsheet, somewhere
MacFacts
OVPR / ROADS
Faculty & Staff Directory
How can (and should) we centralize this information?

How to facilitate management and reuse?

How can we improve public access to this information?
What is McMaster Experts?

Research Information Management System [RIMS] + Ontology + Linked data application for scholarship

Elements + VIVO

connect • share • discover

McMaster University Experts
A centralized, reusable scholarly activity record for all faculty.
- Uses HR data to populate profiles.
- Streamlines publication searching and management.
- Generates CVs and analysis reports.
- Add-on modules for grants, teaching, etc.
- Can be integrated with other systems via Database and API.
An ontology and semantic web application for representing scholarship.

Uses linked open data to represent connections between researchers, their expertise, and their works.

A widely-used, open source research and researcher discovery tool.
Research Information Management System [RIMS]

Ontology +
Linked data
application for
scholarship

McMaster University

Experts

Elements

VIVO
connect • share • discover
The overarching goal of McMaster Experts is to provide a central source of research information that is:

- Current, comprehensive, and accurate
- Available to all faculty and researchers across McMaster
- Acquired and curated efficiently
- Presentable to external audiences and reusable by internal users
Project Development & Timeline
Early 2016

- MUL partnered with RHPCCS for Provost’s SAF support
  - Goal: Implement a pilot of VIVO software to “showcase the diverse array and depth of research performed across McMaster”
  - Deliverables: Faculty profiles, publication records, scholarly activities
- Formal beginning in July 2016
  - 9-month project manager
  - Project team from MUL & RHPCCS
Mid-to-Late 2016

- Review of internal data sources
  - No comprehensive and complete information source
  - Custom-built publication harvester was infeasible
  - Explored Research Information Management Systems (RIMS) to harvest and structure this information.
2017

- Contracted Symplectic to implement Elements RIMS and VIVO connector
- Developed HR data integration
- Began initial curation of profiles and search terms
- Customized VIVO webpages to match branding standards; integrated with Brighter World
Core McMaster Experts system — transition to sustainment
  ○ Systems transferred to UTS servers
User engagement and requirements gathering
  ○ Integrating with other systems
Formation of McMaster Experts Advisory Committee
Completing profile curation and publication claiming
Hiring two positions to support McMaster Experts
  ○ Production Analyst (early October)
  ○ Technical Support Specialist (late October)
Information Sources and Profiles
Profiles in Elements (expertsmanager.mcmaster.ca) are visible only to the researcher, delegates, and administrators. Researchers are notified when publications are waiting to be accepted (or declined) as theirs. Researchers can add overviews, ORCiD IDs, research areas, links to other web pages.
The McMaster Experts (VIVO) landing page (experts.mcmaster.ca) showcases researchers and dynamically integrates media stories.
McMaster Experts (VIVO) profile pages display information from Elements records for public viewing.
Tagged stories from Brighter World pulled dynamically into profiles.
Full scholarly activity information available on bottom tabs.
VIVO’s ontology and linked open data enable data visualizations, such as a researcher’s McMaster co-author network.
Opportunities, Challenges, Next Steps
Opportunity

● Building a complete & centralized information source
● Integrating Experts into other systems and processes
● Expanding functionality by adding modules
● Experts as central source for scholarly activity reporting
● Campus-wide adoption of ORCID ID

Challenge

● Gathering (clean) data; Ensuring profile curation
● Satisfying diverse requirements; supporting users
● Requires data source development; costs $$
● Requires buy-in, additional modules, profile maintenance
● Communicating value; facilitating sign-up
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Manually-exported BibTeX files can be used to populate publication lists.

Information can be pulled dynamically from Experts to other profile pages and systems.

ORCID used to auto-claim publications.

ORCID as secondary data source.

API integration.
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Purpose

- Populate VIVO (Experts)
- Populate other profiles
- Annual reporting
- Reuse in internal systems
- Export in other formats
- Synchronize with external systems
- View real-time dashboards
- Design internal assessment & workflows
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Final Questions
What else do you need/want to know?

How might Experts help you?

How can/should Experts integrate with other systems?