Chapter 3
Research Information Management Systems:
A Comparative Study

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ABSTRACT

Research information management systems (RIMS) are the emerging new service in academic and research libraries. RIMS support universities and libraries in managing their institute, faculty, and researcher information through a single interface. They also allow the researcher to deposit and share their research with the public and enable the reuse of that research. An implementation of RIMS in universities or libraries ensures the proper management of research information for future use. RIMS disseminates research information and publications and supports data, academic, and administrative work by faculty and researchers. Traditionally, an institutional repository, digital library, and research data management software were used to manage research information as part of an institutional repository, but these applications have failed to manage more specialist researcher information and more detailed faculty profiles, etc. Consequently, various specialist software companies have brought RIMS onto the market with applications and products that meet the requirements of individual researchers, libraries, and universities in the management of research information. This chapter provides a comparative evaluation of RIMS (i.e., PURE-Elsevier, Converis-Thomson Routers, and Symplectic

Elements). This study contributes towards an understanding of RIMS and assists with the selection of the appropriate software application for implementation of a RIMS system in universities and libraries.

INTRODUCTION

Research Information Management Systems (RIMS) are the platforms or database systems hosting research information, faculty and researcher profiles. A RIMS is an integrated system of research information, research outputs, grants, research funds and research support. Research information may be research outputs, patents, grants and projects, impact statements, media reports, activities, services, awards, instructional history and researcher affiliations. The researcher has a very little scope when their research data is made openly available alongside their research publication and it is very important to factor in accountability and transparency when the data is deposited in a data repository. Information management is a key part of the research process and good practice in managing research data will allow that data to meet funding and regulatory body requirements, avoid duplication of effort in reproducing the data; research data thereby keeps its integrity and it remains accurate, authentic and reliable. Individual researchers can also exploit the value of RIMS to manage their research outputs, to showcase and publicize their research more effectively, to share publications with others and to partner and collaborate on further research more effectively.

RIMS provide the central repository for information relating to an institution's faculty, researchers and their research activities. It provides the solution for the many requirements of academic and research universities and is efficient and effective in widening the dissemination of the research activities. RIMS connects faculty research with related funding opportunities, identifies subject experts for grants, research collaboration and campus communications. Common standards are used by RIMS: *Common European Research Information Format (CERIF)* and *Consortia Advancing Standards in Research Administration Information (CASRAI)* standards supports the interoperability of RIMS while AGROVOC, GEMET, LCSH, UMLS etc. are used to describe the subject keywords; ORCID, Altmetric, Snowball Metrics and Thomson Reuters Research Analytics standards are available for research analysis and metrics.

The major common features supported by RIMS are: researcher profiles and curriculum vitaes; a web interface with external data sources; discovery and search facilities; integration with author and researcher identifiers; faculty and researcher connection and collaboration; bibliography import and export; an integrated or linked institutional repository; impact analysis tools; reporting and dashboard facilities;

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