



ORCID Primer *for* Administrators and Librarians

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2014-07-14



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Key Points

- 1.** An ORCID identifier is a unique, numeric identifier for individual researchers and creators. ORCID stands for *Open Researcher and Contributor ID*.
 - ORCID was created to reconcile name ambiguity and variants, helping researchers and creators get recognition and credit for all their work.
- 2.** Researchers and creators can use an ORCID identifier to build a profile of their publications, creative works, data, and other products. [Example](#).
 - The ORCID system has been designed to synchronize with journals, funding agencies, data repositories, and other information systems, with the long-term goal of substantially reducing the effort associated with manuscript submission, grant proposal submission, CV maintenance, and other activities. A wide variety of prominent research organizations and publishers have [integrated their systems](#) with ORCID, and many more integrations are [in development](#).
- 2.** Administrators will be able to use ORCID data to improve institutional assessment and benchmarking, impact reporting, and marketing initiatives. Administrators could also use ORCID data to enhance researcher profiles and expert networking systems.
- 3.** Librarians will be able use ORCID data to improve institutional repositories, discovery systems, and name authority systems.
- 4.** An institution can create ORCID identifiers on behalf of its faculty and students. Researchers would have to 'claim' their identifiers in order to activate them.
- 5.** Major journals and funding agencies support ORCID. Quite a few journals request ORCID identifiers with manuscript submissions, and many more will in the near future. Funding agencies will also request ORCID identifiers with grant proposals.

6. The completeness of any ORCID profile depends on the researcher's diligence in maintaining and updating it. While a lot of information can be added automatically from Researcher ID, Scopus, and other sources, researchers may have to add and edit some information manually.

7. An institutional membership for UMD will cost \$4,000—\$20,000/year (CIC discount rate) depending on the level of service.

What is ORCID?

ORCID is the *Open Researcher and Contributor ID* (<http://orcid.org/>). ORCID is a non-profit organization funded by institutional memberships, grant-making organizations, and a wide variety of research organizations and publishers.

What is an ORCID identifier?

An ORCID identifier is a persistent, unique, numeric identifier for individual researchers and creators. For example:

Karl Nilsen is 0000-0002-0698-9687

An ORCID identifier distinguishes researchers and creators from individuals with the same or similar names. For example, take a look at "[Cheng Li](#)" or "[Jennifer Smith](#)" in the ORCID database.

ORCID is similar to ResearcherID, Scopus Author ID, ISNI, and other systems for identifying and distinguishing researchers and creators, but ORCID is rapidly becoming a universal system. ORCID can integrate disparate publication data and interoperate with a wide variety of systems.

Major publishers and funding agencies support ORCID

ORCID is growing rapidly and has many supporters. The most prominent supporters include Nature, Science, PNAS, PLOS, Elsevier, Springer, Wiley, IEEE, ACM, DOE, NIH, FDA, AGU, and the Wellcome Trust.¹

It is widely anticipated that most high-impact journals will request ORCID identifiers with every manuscript submission. Currently, more than one thousand journals request ORCID identifiers with manuscript submissions.² Submitting a manuscript with an ORCID identifier will likely be optional for

¹ <https://orcid.org/statistics>; <http://www.orcidlive.org/>;
<http://orcid.org/organizations/integrators/integration-chart>

² http://sites.nationalacademies.org/PGA/cs/groups/pgasite/documents/webpage/pga_088153.pdf

the next few years, but may become a customary or even mandatory part of the submission process at some point.

It is also anticipated that funding agencies will request ORCID identifiers with every grant proposal and award. The federal agencies are currently developing a [cross-agency researcher profile system](#) (intended to replace the current biographical sketch system) that will incorporate ORCID identifiers.

Overall, a wide variety of research organizations and publishers have [integrated their systems](#) with ORCID, and many more are [planning integrations](#).

How do researchers and creators benefit from ORCID?

1. ORCID helps researchers get recognition and credit for all their work by reconciling name ambiguity and variants. We can think of an ORCID identifier as a DOI for individual researchers and creators. By reducing or resolving name ambiguity problems, ORCID helps researchers maintain authoritative, unambiguous links between their identities and their works.

- As the following examples illustrate, name ambiguity and variants are significant problems for accurate credit:

Ambiguity problems:

Lei Zhang (Winston-Salem State University)
 Lei Zhang (Dartmouth College)
 Lei Zhang (North Dakota State University)
 Lei Zhang (University of Warwick)
 Lei Zhang (University of Maryland)

Variant problems:

Katherine Patterson
 Katherine Elizabeth Patterson
 Katherine E. Patterson
 Kathy Patterson

K. Patterson
K.E. Patterson
Katherine Ross (maiden name)
K. Ross (maiden name)

2. Researchers and creators can use ORCID to maintain a database of publications, patents, creative works, grants, and other products. An individual's database is called an ORCID *profile*. Here's an example of an [ecologist's profile](#) and a [physicist's profile](#).

- Researchers can easily import data from databases, publishers, and other biographical systems. For example, they can import data from Researcher ID, Scopus, ISNI, CrossRef, and others.

3. Increasingly, researchers and creators will be able to automatically import data from their ORCID profiles into publication databases, data repositories, metrics systems, and experts databases, substantially reducing the effort and time associated with manual copying.

- For example, if a researcher submits a grant proposal to the NIH, he or she will be able to import information from his or her ORCID profile into [SciENcv](#). In addition, a researcher can import his or her ORCID profile into [ImpactStory](#) to automatically aggregate information about downloads, citations, and social media mentions associated with his or her work.

4. Journals, publishers, data repositories, libraries, and other organizations will be able to update a researcher's ORCID profile automatically (only with the researcher's permission).

- For example, a journal could automatically add information about a new article to a researcher's ORCID profile, or the UMD Libraries could add a new [DRUM](#) (Digital Repository at the University of Maryland) submission to a researcher's ORCID profile.

4. ORCID will reduce the steps associated with manuscript submission and data repository submission.

- Journals, publishers, data repositories, and other organizations will be able to pre-populate submission information with data from a researcher's ORCID profile, reducing the amount of time required to create a submission.

How would UMD benefit from an institutional membership in ORCID?

- 1.** UMD administrators could import ORCID data associated with faculty and students into institutional assessment and reporting systems.
- 2.** UMD administrators and librarians could use ORCID data to build custom analyses of research activity and impact. Administrators could also use ORCID data in marketing campaigns.
- 3.** UMD faculty and administrators could import ORCID data into expert networks or researcher profiles.
 - The well-known and widely used profile systems, [Profiles](#) and [VIVO](#), are incorporating ORCID identifiers.
- 4.** UMD can create ORCID identifiers on behalf of faculty and students.
 - Some universities are taking this approach in order to generate awareness and accelerate adoption.
 - Individual researchers and creators would have to 'claim' their identifiers in order to activate them.
- 5.** UMD Libraries can append ORCID identifiers to scholarship, data, theses, and dissertations deposited into [DRUM](#).
 - The Libraries could use ORCID integration to pre-populate fields during the DRUM submission process.
- 6.** UMD could add ORCID identifiers to the Directory ID system.

- This would provide a mechanism for passing ORCID identifiers to any system that uses the Directory ID authentication.

What are the limitations of ORCID?

While the ORCID system can import data from a wide range of databases, many researchers and creators will have to add and edit at least some data manually in order to create a complete profile.

Until there is seamless integration between the vast majority of publishers and the ORCID system, the completeness of any ORCID profile will depend on the researcher's diligence in maintaining and updating it.

How much does ORCID cost for individual researchers?

ORCID is free for individual researchers.

How much does an institutional membership cost?

UMD would pay an annual membership fee for institutional membership. The CIC members have negotiated a group membership that would reduce the annual fee. The group membership would not bind UMD to any ORCID services used by other CIC members.

There are two distinct levels of service and support.

Basic: \$4,000/year (includes CIC discount)

- One set of client credentials—permits multiple systems at UMD to access the ORCID database, but all systems will have the same level of access
- Basic technical support (email support, on-boarding webinar, technical integration advice)
- Biannual data file of ORCID public data

Premium: \$20,000/year (includes CIC discount)

- Up to five sets of client credentials—supports multiple systems with distinct privacy and/or security needs
- Automated update services (web-hooks)
- More API requests per day
- Monthly data files of ORCID public data and explicitly shared limited access data
- Custom reports detailing site traffic, registrations, and visit duration
- Higher bandwidth
- More technical support

Learn more

[Visit the ORCID website](#)

[Scientists, Your Number is Up](#). Nature, 31 May 2012. doi:10.1038/485564a

Create your ORCID identifier: [Register](#)