

PROPOSED CHARGE TO RGPEC
ORCID ID Implementation
February 26, 2015

Investigate and make recommendations with regard to an implementation of ORCID IDs (i.e. minting ORCID IDs) at Rutgers. If deemed appropriate, make specific recommendations for incremental implementation, for example, beginning with the graduate school(s). Identify benefits, processes, timeline, who would be involved, and approximate costs. Respond to Senate Executive Committee by December 2015.

Rationale

ORCID is an open, collaborative, non-profit, community-driven organization creating and maintaining a registry of unique researcher identifiers (ORCID IDs) and a transparent method of linking activities and outputs of these identifiers. ORCID works in collaboration with other stakeholders in the research community, including major publishers, funders, repositories, and societies. Researchers and academics interact with a great number of diverse research information systems, including grant submission systems, publisher manuscript submissions, university HR, institutional and subject repositories, researcher profile and networking systems, etc. ORCID IDs reduce repetitive data entry by linking with these other systems; ORCID supports system-to-system interoperability as well as cooperates with other identifier systems. Most importantly, ORCID eliminates name ambiguity so each researcher is distinguished from every other for proper attribution. As an identifier, ORCID is unique for being non-proprietary and interdisciplinary; it reaches across research sectors and national boundaries, and stays with the researcher for their entire career. ORCID can be integrated with many components of the research landscape, including research workflows and other identifier systems. Embedding of ORCID IDs is already widespread in University CRIS (current research information systems), researcher profile systems, manuscript submission systems, and grant application systems. There is linkage with repositories, and other IDs like ResearcherID. Over a million ORCID IDs have been issued to date, over 750 of them at Rutgers. Although registering for an ORCID ID is free and takes only a few seconds, this RGPEC charge would look into the University minting ORCID IDs on behalf of Rutgers scholars.

ORCID offers a consortial discount on membership, and the CIC has been discussing consortial ORCID membership for some time, through its Data Storage Services group, organized by the Chief Information Officers and including members representing University Librarians and Senior Research Officers. CIC Graduate Deans and VPs for Faculty Affairs have also expressed interest in ORCID use cases. In August, 2014, the CIC formed an ORCID Community of Practice to share resources, best practices and ORCID implementation experiences within the CIC, and there is now an active CIC ORCID planning group. In October at Rutgers, the Technical Director of ORCID delivered a presentation to the program directors of Rutgers' Graduate School—New Brunswick. Subsequent discussion with the GSNB Executive Council this month indicates that group is fully supportive of an ORCID initiative, which could be similar to the graduate school implementation at Texas A&M. The Dean of the GSBS is also very interested in pursuing ORCID IDs. Finally, ORCID has come up in many conversations surrounding implementation of the Rutgers Open Access Policy, which goes into effect September 1, 2015, and SOAR (Scholarly Open Access at Rutgers), the OA Policy website developed to facilitate the OA policy implementation.