ORBIT Funder Working Group Report Talking Points

This document summarizes the main recommendations of the ORBIT Funder Working Group's three recently published reports on ORCID and grant DOIs, and on the use of ORCID in grant applications and grant reporting processes. It is intended to provide high-level talking points about how and why to use ORCID and other persistent identifiers at all stages of the funding cycle -- from grant application to publication.

Overview

ORCID's vision is a world where all researchers are uniquely identified and connected with their contributions and affiliations. This includes information about their grants and awards, which can then be easily shared across systems and included in publications, helping researchers and funders alike to get the recognition they deserve.

The ORBIT project was launched in late 2017 to help us achieve this vision. It enabled us to engage directly with the funding community about the use of ORCID and other persistent identifiers in grant management workflows. Funders have long been supportive of ORCID goals, and are now starting to adopt ORCID into their systems. These recommendations from the ORBIT Funder Working Group (FWG) represent the experience and objectives of the funding community for using ORCID, including:

- Reducing the reporting process burden on researchers and funders by using information from ORCID records to fill forms and to track research results over time
- Improving data quality by adding information about funding to ORCID records
- Enabling automated sharing of information about researchers and their grants between systems and organizations

The FWG's recommendations are summarized below. They clarify how and why each of the three key stakeholder groups -- funders, publishers, and researchers -- should use ORCID.

Recommendations

Funders should use ORCID and other persistent identifiers to:

- Support researchers by using the data in their ORCID records to reduce the time they spend filling forms, and by adding information about their grants to their records
- Track and evaluate the results of the research they fund by maintaining links with grantees - past, present, and future
- Streamline reporting and other information-sharing through cross-system interoperability, for example, with publishers

Publishers should use ORCID and other persistent identifiers to:

- Enable researchers to easily share information about their publications, other contributions, and service (peer review, editorial board membership, etc) with funders, by adding it to their ORCID records
- Collect information about funding from their authors' ORCID records, so that it can be included in their publications
- Support funder compliance and improve transparency by including relevant identifiers (ORCID iDs, grant DOIs, organization IDs) in publication metadata

Researchers should use their ORCID iD to:
- Connect themselves reliably with their research to ensure that it is discoverable and that they get recognition for their work
- Benefit from faster form-filling when applying for a grant or submitting a manuscript, and from automatic updates to their ORCID record by their funders and publishers
- Share their ORCID iD and the grant information in their ORCID record during the manuscript submission process so it can be included in their publication metadata

Next steps

We are implementing a funder communications campaign with the goal of achieving a consistent global level of awareness and understanding of what it means for a funder to support, promote, and integrate ORCID iDs. In particular, we want to support the funding community's efforts to expand and improve open research -- including the sharing of research information -- through the adoption and use of ORCID as part of the global open research information infrastructure. For more information about ORCID in funding workflows, please see the funder pages on our website.