

ORCID Funder Working Group

Terms of Reference

Summary

Funders are working with ORCID to enhance our data model and third party service integrations, to broaden connections to the array of research and career data usually contained in grant applications, post award reports and biographies. ORCID has established the Funder Working Group (FWG) to formalize these interactions. This group includes funders large and small, national and global, government and charity, disciplinary and broad multidisciplinary working in humanities & social sciences (HSS) science, technology, engineering & mathematics (STEM), bio-medicine, etc.

In addition to data model requirements, topics for the group include persistent identifiers for grants, interactions with publishers, data sharing workflows, and administrative burden for researchers. Group members will have policy, program, and/or technical expertise. The ORCID project team will provide core support for the group, including scheduling, agenda preparation, research, and resource development. We will bring in additional expertise from the persistent identifier and research information community as needed.

Background

The primary objective of the Funder Working Group is to provide expert input to the ORCID Reducing Burden and Improving Transparency (ORBIT) project. Ultimately, the goal of this project is to improve local and global reusability of research and researcher information, by describing and testing opportunities for convenience and efficiency gains in grant application and reporting workflows.

Collective action is needed to realize the vision of open research. While researchers play a central role, organizations that are invested in the professional success of researchers must facilitate the sharing of information by investing in infrastructure and information systems. Research funders are increasingly seeing persistent identifiers such as ORCID as a part of core research infrastructure and vital to their business. However, many are at a loss as to where to start, are unclear which use cases are relevant to them, and want working examples of integrations before they will commit resources to updating their information systems. The FWG and the ORBIT project will address these needs.

Goals

To this end, the group will help develop a common understanding of application, review processes and reporting workflows; define terms; identify opportunities for use of identifiers for people, public documents, and organizations; and review discussion documents and draft

findings reports on topics including metadata requirements, workflow analyses, and research policy.

Anticipated benefits:

- Guidance and documentation on implementing identifiers such as ORCID and DOIs in funding workflows
- Increased collaboration between funders in improving openness and transparency of grant information
- Reduced application and reporting burden for researchers and administrators
- [FAIR](#) principles embedded in workflows and practices across the research sector (see also [Position Statement of Science Europe](#))
- A real chance to change the way research information is shared for the better

Membership

The FWG will comprise 12-15 individuals, participating in the group as representatives of their organizations. The group will strive to achieve geographical, sectoral, and disciplinary balance. Funders from each of the major global regions (Europe, the Middle East and Africa, the Americas and Asia-Pacific) will participate. A balance between government and charitable research funders, disciplinary and broadly multidisciplinary, large and small organizations, and national and transnational organizations will be sought. The group will invite input from research information experts, standards bodies, and infrastructure providers as needed to inform their analyses.

Structure and Process

The Group will meet monthly via webinar. The initial term of the group's members will be 18 months. The group will be convened and supported by ORCID. Together, the group will analyze workflows, technologies, and standards in use by funders, and identify key points at which information could be shared or made available to actors and downstream information systems. Its intended products are a summary report, and community engagement with pilot projects. Sub-groups or working parties may be established on a task-by-task basis, bringing in external expertise as needed.

Activities

The group will discuss the following questions, and define opportunities for collaboration in pilot projects:

- What information is needed by funders to support grant applications, review and research reporting, and what sources can supply that information?
- What integrations are needed with research community systems to enhance openness and reusability of this information?
- What identifiers and other infrastructures could be used to create and strengthen connections between people, funding, works and affiliations to meet funder information needs?

- What are the challenges and opportunities presented by the use of ORCID identifiers in funder systems?
- How can the group support a shared, open grant award identifier system for research funding organizations?
- What is the role of organization identifiers in this information-sharing ecosystem?
- What are the touchpoints with researchers, institutions, publishers and other stakeholders where this information can be shared?

We expect that participants will commit up to one day per month to this program, while participants in the ORBIT pilot projects will commit potentially upwards of one week per month of staff time.

Contact

For additional information about the Funder Working Group, please contact us at orbit@orcid.org.