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One year of the Research Outputs team: how the use of Elements has changed at UoM

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How it started ...

Previous team (2018 – 2021)

Research outputs claimed

2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	Average
43,396	39,843	47,051	43,430

Claimed outputs
appear on 'Find an
Expert'

Author identifiers connected

2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	Average
1,623	2,269	1,571	1,821

Outputs approved for ERA

2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	Average
9,737	12,731	9,123	10,530

Approved outputs are
used for ERA
submission and
institutional reporting

Approach 1: Targeted author ID initiatives

In an average year, with name-based harvesting activated, the previous team reviewed tens of thousands of pending outputs in preparation for ERA. Auto-claiming was helping, but buy-in was low....

By leveraging the Elements Reporting Database, the Research Outputs team, with help from the Research Domain Systems and University Decision Support teams, were able to identify Elements users who were yet to configure author IDs.

- Further to this, they were able to identify users for whom Elements had captured a 'suggested' Scopus or Dimensions author ID. These user's profiles were reviewed and the 'suggested' ID was configured to 'auto-claim' if deemed accurate.
- Research Domain Systems automated a report for Faculty stakeholders that encourages the use and connection of ORCID in Elements for researchers who were yet to do so.
- University Decision support incorporated ORCID into a performance development dashboard using data from Elements. This allowed Faculties to quickly see who did and didn't have one.
- Research Domain Systems used ORCIDs to capture Dimensions IDs, and used Dimensions IDs to capture ORCIDs, for Elements.

Approach 2: Automated classification

In an average year, the previous team was required to review tens of thousands of outputs for ERA eligibility, e.g., “is it research?”. Frustratingly, many of these outputs, e.g., editorials, were never going to be eligible ...

By leveraging the Elements Reporting Database and the Elements API, the Research Outputs team, in collaboration with Research Domain Systems, were able to clarify the scale of the ‘ERA eligible’ component of the annual collection.

- Detailed parameters for each ERA eligible research output type were defined using easily available metadata, e.g., ‘subtype’, and these were aligned with a HERDC inspired classification label already in use in Elements.
- A weekly task was established to identify and apply a classification label to outputs that met these parameters using the Elements API.

Approach 3: Targeted ERA processing

With authorship and eligibility confirmed ...

By again leveraging the Elements Reporting Database, and local HR data, when it came time to prepare for ERA submission, the Research Outputs team were in a position to focus exclusively on research outputs that were a) actually authored by University of Melbourne researchers and b) actually eligible for ERA.

- To begin with, reporting was developed that isolated the 'ERA eligible' research outputs authored by academic staff. These were reviewed and 'accepted' for the annual collection by the Research Outputs team.
- Reporting was expanded to include ERA eligible research outputs authored by honorary staff who had used a University of Melbourne affiliation in their author by-line. These were reviewed and 'accepted' for the annual collection by the Research Outputs team.
- Despite the ERA focus, the significant increase in authored outputs, both ERA eligible and not, has allowed for far better representation of our researchers output in University systems, such as public facing researcher profiles, and internally focussed professional development tools.

How it's going!

Previous team (2018 – 2021)

Research outputs claimed

2018-2021 Average
43,430

Author identifiers connected

2018-2021 Average
1,821

Outputs approved for ERA

2018-2021 Average
10,530

Research Outputs team (2021 – 2022)

Research outputs claimed

2021-2022	Improvement
99,899	130%

Author identifiers connected

2021-2022	Improvement
16,854	826%

Outputs approved for ERA

2021-2022	Improvement
27,293	159%



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Thank you


