Using a CRIS to reduce workload and increase quality for research reporting and university marketing

A case study

CENTRUM VEDECKO TECHNICKÝCH INFORMÁCIÍ
SLOVENSKEJ REPUBLIKY
April 2nd, 2014

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What you will hear about today

- A project
- A university
- A data collection put to use
Research information management: Drivers in Germany

- One decade of practice in output-oriented management
  - Performance-based funding, research evaluations
  - Professionalisation of (IT-supported) management in higher education and research

- Technical developments and Best Practice
  - Tools for recording and analysis are available

- German Council of Science and Humanities (Wissenschaftsrat) recommends improvements in research documentation (2011)
  - Common standards of data acquisition
  - Harmonisation of reporting systems
  - Service-orientiented administration
Living up to a promise....

Implementation of a CRIS leads to more efficiency in research documentation!

- Register once and reuse
- Reduce workload for single reporting requirements

But in our use cases, quality of information is valued most.
- Structured, enhanced, accessible, validated.
Who we do it for: Leuphana University of Luneburg

- A mid-size university in the metropolitan area of Hamburg
  - 140 professors, 8,000 students
  - 80% Social Sciences & Humanities
  - 20% Natural & Technical Sciences

- A model university in terms of study concepts
  - College and Graduate School
  - Consecutive Master & Dissertation

- A developing university in terms of academic reputation

* Including double affiliations
Implementation of a CRIS at Leuphana
Where we are

- 3 years of live operation
- 700 active database users
- 100 content editors in university institutions
- 30 use cases (research reporting)
- 6 major business processes adapted (ongoing)
  - Owners: Finance, Library, Marketing, Faculties
- Doubling of bibliography (publication count)

Effort

- 18 months preparation
- 30 person months full-time project manager
- XX person months inhouse staff (part-time)
- 2,500 tickets in issue management system
Collect distributed data & facilitate reporting

Data sources

Publications
Library, external databases

Journal ratings, citations
Scopus, WoS, rating projects

Persons, Organisations
SAP HR, phone directory

Projects
SAP, websites, project files

Awards & other activities
websites

CRIS
Enriched datasets
Filter options
Standard reports

reduce workload for reporting

02.04.2014
Method: Decentralized data curation
Aggregating information from several sources

Faculty and Institutes
Data entered by individual researchers, teams and support staff
100 trained CRIS editors

Support team and Library
Additional parameters relevant for research management. Validation of projects, publications, quality management

Databases
Data from local and external sources of information. Either synchronised or imported (via API or by copy-paste).
Outcome
A corpus of research information for reporting and marketing

- **Project directory**
  - Third-party funding, internal projects
  - Description, staff/partners, finance, outcome (publications, activities)

- **Expert directory**
  - Person profiles with CV, plus recording of posts and offices, awards etc.

- **Publication repository** with integrated full text management
  - Document management for Open Access (visibility, embargo dates)
  - Integration of Sherpa Romeo Information (Open Access Policies)

- **Directory of Funders and external cooperation partners**
  - Registered with projects and publications

- **Tool for bibliometric analyses**
  - Citations, journal ratings

- **Reporting & exhibition tool**
  - Flexible generation of lists, statistics, analyses
  - Webservices and xml exports
Transition: Abandon occasional collection of e-Mail and text files

„Dear colleagues, please send…“
Introduce consequent use of the CRIS data corpus

“Dear colleagues, please update….”
Supporting factors

- The CRIS tool is intuitive and easy to use
- Information already present at the University is made available for the scientists
- The CRIS offers all user groups multiple ways to access and reuse the data (easy generation of simple lists, plus analytical tools, webservice)
- The data quality is good
- Data in the CRIS is used consistently and registered as needed
Use Cases in Research Reporting
Performance monitoring & acquisition of additional report processes
Two dozen processes regularly require research information – five examples we started with

- Publication report
- Performance-based funding
- Faculty Business
- Organisation profiles
  State Research Portal
- Knowledge Transfer Office

- Faculty Culture
- Report
  International Activities

- Gender & Equality Office
- Evaluation Report
  Gender Research
- State Scientific Commission

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Performance-based budgeting
designed and performed in the Dean´s offices

Typical indicators:
- Publications, weighted by type (sometimes by length, bonus for top journals)
- Grant income
- Offices & Posts in internal committees
- Doctoral, Master and Bachelor theses
- Teaching workload

Database
- CRIS system („opt-in“ strategy, used by all four faculties)

Feedback
- Reporting module has reduced effort for data collection & analyses
  - Citations and impact factors / journal ratings are uploaded
- Use of CRIS has increased transparency for researchers
Leuphana Research Awards
Highlighting academic achievements & research active staff

• Research Award
• Young Researcher Award
• Monograph Award
• Fundraiser Award
• Most Cited Researcher
• Ceremony at annual “Dies academicus”
• Awardees receive bonuses between 1,000 and 3,000 € for their annual budgets
• Total budget: 30,000 € p.a.

Process optimization:
Workload for assessments dropped from 1.5 person months (2010) to <1 person month (2013)
Subject survey and reports
Pilot: Evaluation of Gender research in Lower Saxony

Data collection for the subject field „Gender & Diversity“
- More than 350 publications tagged in the CRIS and 40 experts identified
- Efficient production of standardized reports
Research areas
Institutional catalogue
Internal surveys since 2011

- Gender & Diversity Studies – State Commission Report
- Cultural Studies – State Commission Report
- Theology – State Commission Report

- Research activities in Teacher Education – Accreditation report
  - 170 faculty members, 15 research areas

- Entrepreneurship – Internal Assessment
- Sustainability Research – Biennial Report
  - Additional 70 publications, 120 press clippings
  - 20 experts identified/registered
Use cases in Marketing
A corpus of authorized research information

Now available for dissemination

CRIS

Hochschulbibliographie
Lehrendenprofil
Profil für Web
Transferaktivitäten
Drittmittelanzeige
Mittelvergabe

Internationale Aktivitäten?
Aktivitäten der Initiative XY?
Kooperationen mit ----?
Erziehungswissenschaften?
Energieforschung?
Forschungspreise

Forschungsberichte
Webintegration of CRIS data

- Leuphana Research portal
  - Search by research area
  - Free search

- Typo3-Plugins for personal websites and institutions
  - CV
  - Publication lists
  - Activities
  - Projects

Observations

- Intervals of updates differ between individuals
- Some scientists prefer manual editing of their website
CRIS web integration: Different needs on different levels

**ASPECTS**
- **LEVEL**
  - Researcher
  - Institute
  - Faculty
  - University

**ASPECTS (Researcher)**
- Identify individual preferences with pilot users
- Define needs & optimize webservice
- Rollout on every personal Homepage
- Instruction of CMS and CRIS editors

**ASPECTS (Institute)**
- Round-table discussions
- Developing common understanding of standards
- Rollout of Pure Data when enough data is registered and visible

**ASPECTS (Faculty)**
- Faculty is involved via members and through research evaluations
- Research output for each initiative:
  - Culture
  - Business & Economics
  - Education
  - Sustainability

**ASPECTS (University)**
- Inhouse webservice development:
  1. Research Portal
  2. Typo3 Plugins for individuals, institutes, faculties

**NEEDS**
- Tolerating Individuality
- Developing Common Standards
- Broad Use & Acceptance
- Combining CRIS & CD

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=> Perspective: Plugins plus Portal
Publication plugin on institute level

PUBLICATIONS

Sustainability Research Initiative

The various perspectives offer different potential solutions. In the context of transdisciplinary programs and research projects, the aim is to investigate real problems in the life world by including local people and to develop new analyses and potential solutions by combining and developing these points of view further. As a result, transfer and cooperation between the parties represents an integral component of transdisciplinary research (as per the definition of transdisciplinarity).

Search term: 

Please use * as place holders. Do not use * at the beginning of the search term.

All types
Books/collected editions (349)
Academic journals (1440)
Contributions to books and anthologies (803)
Conference contributions (424)
Proprietary right (10)
Working or discussion papers and reports (293)
Sound and image carriers (1)
Posts in memorandum (4)
Other contribution (12)

All types

2013

Allan, E., Weisser, W. W., Fischer, M., Schuizle, E-D., Weigel, A., Roscher, C.,
Publication plugin on individual homepage

PUBLIKATIONEN

PD Dr. Martin Warnke

Alle Typen
Bücher/Sammelwerke (10)
Beiträge in Fachzeitschriften/Zeitschriften (21)
Beiträge in Büchern/Sammelwerken (72)
Konferenzbeiträge (10)
Arbeits- oder Diskussionspapiere und Berichte (5)
Ton- und Bildträger (2)
Andere Beiträge (1)

2013

Details PDF

Details PDF

2012

Details PDF

Details PDF

Offpage use: Feeding CRIS data into regional and local databases for better representation & recognition

Three German examples of research portals

1. „Forschung in Niedersachsen“: Regional transfer database
   - Previously: ~100 outdated profiles
   - Current: 210 Team profiles plus weblinks to related projects

2. SOFIS: social sciences research (D-A-CH)
   - Current LEU data: unknown
   - Potential: 600 current research projects plus related publications plus current organisation structure

3. FIS Bildung: educational research (Germany)
   - Current LEU data: 90 Publications
   - Potential: 400 publications (2011-2013)
Individual researcher portfolios: What about academic social networks?

- Academia.edu
- ResearchGate
- ORCID database
- LinkedIn
- Mendeley
- ....
Thanks for your attention

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02.04.2014