ORCID: Key messages for researchers

This is a resource that can be used and adapted by anyone involved in promoting ORCID to their researchers. It has been jointly developed by representatives of the Council of Australian University Librarians (CAUL), the Australian National Data Service (ANDS) and the Australian Access Federation (AAF).

Further information about this resource:
Simon Huggard - S.Huggard@latrobe.edu.au
Natasha Simons - natasha.simons@ands.org.au

Further information about the Australian ORCID Consortium:
Elleina Filippi - elleina.filippi@aaf.edu.au
Melroy Almeida - melroy.almeida@aaf.edu.au

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What is ORCID?
ORCID is a global, open, not-for-profit organisation run by and for the research community. They provide you with a unique identifier - your ORCID iD - that reliably and clearly connects you with your research contributions and affiliations. ORCID is integrated into key research workflows such as manuscript submission with a wide range of publishers and grant submission including through ARC and NHMRC. ORCID's vision is a world where all who participate in research, scholarship, and innovation are uniquely identified and connected to their contributions and affiliations across disciplines, borders, and time.

See more at http://orcid.org/

Top benefits of ORCID for researchers:

1. ORCID connects you with your contributions and affiliations, protecting your unique scholarly identity.

Did you know that there are approximately 200,000 people per unique surname in China? Have you ever changed your name, had your name misspelled on a publication, been attributed to the wrong publication, or accidentally omitted your middle initial from the byline when submitting a manuscript? We are not as uniquely named as we think and therefore getting credit for all of our scholarly work based on name alone is a problem. ORCID solves the author name problem by giving you a unique, 16-digit numeric identification number that lasts over time. An ORCID iD is your lifelong digital name, which you control and can use through your entire career. It ensures that you, your contributions, and your affiliation information are connected, even if you change your name, affiliation, discipline or country. This is why a growing number of organisations including universities, publishers and funders, are requiring researchers to use ORCID iDs.

2. ORCID saves you time - "enter once, re-use often"

Have you ever been asked to provide the same information about you and your publications time and time again by different systems? Then you'll be pleased to hear that hundreds of systems used by researchers have built in ORCID connectors, enabling you to connect your iD and enable automatic updates across systems - without changing the way that you currently work. More and more of the systems you already use now collect ORCID iDs, including major publishing systems, research profile systems, funder systems, library repositories, data repositories and more. This will help reduce time spent filling in forms and reports and free up more time to do your research.

3. Connects with your other researcher identifiers e.g. ResearcherID and ScopusID

Have you already got another researcher identifier? Actually there's a good chance that you have more than just one researcher identifier. So why another? Well, ORCID is different because it acts as a hub to connect your other identifiers. For example, automatically connecting your ORCID iD with your Scopus ID, Crossref and researcherID will take all of your existing works in each

of these databases and populate these into your ORCID record. Any future works that is accepted and published will automatically be updated in your ORCID.

4. Improves recognition for you and enhances discoverability of your research outputs

Think of ORCID as your e-portfolio with a difference. Your ORCID iD can connect all your research works including papers, data, funding and grants. For example, with your explicit permission, if you have published works in Web of Science and Scopus, the publishers can write the publication details to your ORCID record carrying greater influence than simply stating this yourself. Similarly, many funders can now, with your permission, write details of your grants to your ORCID record.

While ORCID will not store your works, it will provide a link to them so there is an added benefit of not having to upload anything. Giving someone your ORCID iD is like giving them access to your resume which is great for publicity. More than that, ORCID is used by ever more research systems around the world to share information and to promote researchers and their research.

5. Easy to connect your affiliation, works, and awards

More and more systems you already use are connected with ORCID. You can add your affiliation, works and awards, enabling this information to be shared between systems thereby enhancing discoverability of your works. ORCID is not just about connecting you with your journal articles, it can also connect a huge variety of other works such as theses, book chapters, performances, datasets and more. A 'search and link wizard' is used by ORCID to make adding these types of works to your ORCID iD a easier process.

6. You own and control your record

Who controls your ORCID record? Why, you do of course! You create it, decide what information to connect to it, what to make public or keep private, and who can access it. For example, you can decide whether or not to allow your affiliated institution or a particular publisher to update your profile with specific information such as your affiliation or your publication details. There are settings in your ORCID record that allow you to manage these connections and set levels of privacy. Changing the settings is as simple as the click of a button.

7. Getting an ORCID is quick, easy and free

Registering for an using your ORCID iD is quick, easy and free. Plus, if you've published before, you likely already have a [ResearcherID](#) or [Scopus Author ID](#), or you may have publications indexed in [CrossRef](#) – which means that you can easily import information from those systems into your ORCID record, letting those websites do the grunt work for you.

Six things to do now you have an ORCID iD*

Congratulations - you got yourself an ORCID iD! Perhaps you did so by the request of your supervisor or institution. Or because it was a recommended - or even required - field on a manuscript or grant submission system. Or maybe you've got a common or complicated name and a colleague recommended you sign up to help you distinguish yourself from others with the same name. Whatever the reason, we're happy to welcome you - and you're in good company! Leading researchers - from Nobel Laureate, Peter Doherty to Václav Hampl, member of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic - have also registered for an ORCID iD.

So what now? How can you make the most of your ORCID iD? When and where can you use it? And why should you do so? Here are six top tips for making the most of your iD - please let us know if you have others.

1. Make it work for you!

The single most important thing to do is to to use your ORCID iD and make it work for you, for example, to enable auto-updates from other systems such as ResearcherID, SCOPUS and, shortly, CrossRef which to date has issued over 75 million digital object identifiers (DOIs) for articles, book chapters, images, and more (more on that in a future post). So keep your information updated, include your iD when prompted to do so in manuscript submission systems, grant applications, and other research workflows, make sure it's linked to other identifiers and profiles you use, such as ResearcherID and Scopus, and include it in your CV, your web page, your signature line, and more.

2. Add extra data

Next, take an extra 30 seconds to add your affiliation as well as all the variations of your name in your record. This could include any abbreviations you use professionally (initials and/or a nickname, for example) as well as other names you are or have been known by. ORCID is set up to allow as many different names, variations, and combinations of names as you need! Without this extra data, anyone searching for you by name alone will still be unable to distinguish you from someone else with the same name as you.

3. Use the search and link wizard

It's also helpful to enhance discoverability of your existing works by using our search and link wizard to connect information about your research outputs to your ORCID record. This ensures you get the credit for it - and you'll also be able to quickly and easily provide that information when applying for jobs, promotion, tenure, grants, and more. You can also use the Uber wizard to add details of your funding.

4. Add your ORCID iD to your social accounts

Another smart thing to do once you've got an ORCID iD is to add it to your social accounts - whether you're a tweeter, a Wikipedian, a Facebooker, or active on LinkedIn, academia.edu, Mendeley, ResearchGate, or many more. Some social tools, like Wikipedia, provide instructions on how to add your ORCID iD, and pretty much all of them include an option to add a website - so why not add your ORCID url?

5. Use your QR code

 Your ORCID iD comes with its very own QR code, so don't forget to download and use that too!

6. Talk it up!

Last but not least, please tell your friends and colleagues you've got an ORCID iD and encourage them to get one too. The more people who register - and use - our iDs, the more we will be able to fulfill our goal of solving the name ambiguity problem in research and scholarly communications.