PURE as a publications repository

PURE is the University’s ‘golden copy’ repository of research publications, and has over the first 2 years of its operation accumulated a total of around 75,000 publication records affiliated with Edinburgh staff. This information is used on a daily basis to provide information on the outputs of our research for potential staff and students as well as feeding into grant proposals and information to support internal and international developments. The system is our primary support for statutory reporting requirements such as the REF and for the RCUK research outcomes (ROS) and Open Access (OA) compliance.

Connecting PURE content for research activity and impact profiles.

PURE provides the means to capture all forms of research activity and output, not just that of formal published works. A further powerful feature of the system is in its ability to join up research outcomes to their funding source by adding project relations to any content, so that users can easily see the totality of research activity surrounding any funded (or unfunded) project work.

Ensuring CHSS staff make the funding relations to outcomes in PURE provides the opportunity to create or assemble comprehensive digital profiles that act to promote work through the Edinburgh Research Explorer or through local web pages for individual staff or project profiles. In addition to publications data, PURE can capture detailed outcome information on press attention, awards received, attendances at conferences, memberships of committees or advisory panels, editorial or peer review work, public engagement and more.

Such connected research activity data recorded in PURE can be used to provide evidence and indications of research impact and forms a crucial part of the process of building case study information in support of the University Strategic Plan, for RCUK research outcomes reporting, HESA HE-BCI reporting and increasingly as part of preparations for the next REF exercise. The University is building its capability in capturing and managing impact data, and the activity information in PURE is a key component of this process.

PURE for content management

PURE also provides a number of functional tools to support the reuse of data in local School websites, allowing for pages to be dynamically updated with new content added into the system. This approach has been developing across the University and we have developed approaches to support the Polopoly CMS, Drupal and Wordpress websites as well as other custom implementations. Examples of websites using these approaches are the Roslin Institute, the Institute of Genetics and Molecular Medicine and the Child Protection Research Centre.
In recent months PURE has also become a useful resource for clustering research activity undertaken by large scale awards such as the CITSEE project or the Edinburgh Acoustics and Audio group and providing them with increased public exposure through the Edinburgh Research Explorer.

The Edinburgh Research Explorer acts as a public front end to all data held in PURE. The web pages are constantly updating and allow users to browse across a comprehensive view of Edinburgh research activity. This is becoming an increasingly important means for potential staff and students to find out about our research and to help them make informed choices about where to work and study.

James Toon, Governance and Strategic Planning.
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