ORCID: Using API Calls to Assess Metadata Completeness

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this poster is to demonstrate the importance of adequate metadata in ORCID profiles to ensure name disambiguation. It is only through more complete metadata that ORCID will ensure success in terms of interoperability with institutional scholarly, publishing and funding bodies. We ran queries against the public ORCID API to get a better sense of how many ORCID records have only minimal information.

ORCID

ORCID (Open Researcher and Contributor ID) is a non-profit persistent digital identifier open registry offered to researchers across disciplines. Their mission is to provide an identifier in the form of a unique alphanumeric code to provide persistent identity for researchers. There are three easy steps to receive a persistent ID and distinguish oneself from other researchers: register, add your info, and use your ORCID ID.

METHODOLOGIES

To get a sense of the big picture in terms of records with only the minimal required information, e.g., name and email, we searched the ORCID API between 2012-2017. This did not include affiliation / organization name, Ringgold ID, and any work titles. Results were gathered by year as well as an overall API call to search the entire ORCID database.

CHALLENGES

Missing data such as affiliations or work titles poses a major challenge on one hand to gather appropriate data and on the other to consider PID service adoption. From the preliminary results we noticed that the problem of orphan (empty) records is very common. Many records lack critical metadata fields the following solutions are proposed:

1. Advocacy and education
2. Continued ORCID outreach
3. Increased system interoperability

CONCLUSIONS

ORCID IDs are very useful, specifically when most names are not unique. However, many records lack critical elements required to perform the main functions of a personal identifier, namely the name disambiguation. It is hoped that this poster draws attention to the problems associated with a lack of identifying metadata in ORCID records and highlights the value of more complete metadata in disambiguating researcher names and identifiers.

REFERENCES

Meadows, A. (2016). Everything you ever wanted to know about ORCID ... but were afraid to ask. College & Research Library News, 77(1), 23-30.

FUTURE WORK

In order to address a large number of ORCID records missing critical metadata fields the following solutions are proposed:

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Examples of ORCID dummy accounts

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