Short Guide to ORCID*

Researchers need to distinguish themselves from others with the same or similar names. A researcher’s name often is not enough to reliably identify the author of, or contributor to, an article published in a journal or a dataset uploaded to a repository.

You need to be able to easily and uniquely attach your identity to research objects such as articles, citations, datasets, patents and equipment. As you collaborate across disciplines, institutions and borders, you must interact with an increasing number and diversity of research information systems. Entering data over and over again can be time-consuming, and often frustrating.

ORCID aims to solve the name ambiguity problem in research and scholarly communications by creating a central registry of unique identifiers for individual researchers and an open and transparent linking mechanism between ORCID and other current researcher ID schemes. These identifiers, and the relationships among them, can be linked to the researcher's output to enhance the scientific discovery process and to improve the efficiency of research funding and collaboration within the research community.

What is ORCID?
ORCID stands for Open Researcher and Contributor ID. The ORCID initiative focuses on solving the name ambiguity problem by creating persistent unique identifiers and linking mechanisms between different ID schemes and research objects. More information at the ORCID website http://orcid.org/about.

How can I get an ORCID identifier?
You can set up an ORCID yourself using the form on the ORCID website https://orcid.org/register.

When will I use the ORCID identifier?
When submitting an article for publication or applying for a grant. You can also add it to your web profile, your CV, or any other place you list your research.

Will my ORCID profile (at orcid.org) populate automatically with my research output?
Initially, you can populate your profile with articles in Scopus, Europe PubMed Central, CrossRef Metadata Search, and works already associated with a Thomson Reuters’ ResearcherID. Select from these options under “For Researchers > My ORCID Record” in the “Works” area. Click on “Link Works” to get started. Only articles with a DOI will appear automatically. Other research aggregators such as ProQuest also plan to work with ORCID in the near future.
Can I add articles to make my record complete?
Yes. Your publication list will grow automatically as more publishers come on board, but you may add articles to your profile immediately if you wish. Identifying your work with an ORCID may help to make it more visible on the web.

Is ORCID just for articles?
Right now an orcid.org profile will only populate automatically with texts, but ORCID can be used for any kind of work, including fine arts and social sciences.

What kind of information does ORCID have about me?
Per the orcid.org website, “ORCID records hold non-sensitive information such as name, email, organization and research activities. ORCID understands the fundamental need for individuals to control how their data are shared, and provides tools to manage data privacy. We take steps to protect your information, consistent with the principles set forth in our Privacy Policy, which are intended to comply with the Safe Harbor Principles issued by the U.S. Department of Commerce.”

For each research entry you can choose among three levels of security: public (anyone can see the entry); limited (you choose who can see the entry); private (entry can be seen only by you.) When the ORCID account is first created, the default security level is public.

Can someone else to claim my research, or can I claim research done by someone else?
Yes. Having an ORCID cannot prevent these problems, but it can make them easier to detect, since, unlike names, your ORCID is unique to you. ORCID is simply a registry of scholarship. You can clean up your profile by identifying your own research and deleting any entries that are not your work.

Do ORCID profiles support citations in non-Latin scripts?
Yes, non-Latin script character sets with Unicode encoding are supported for display and search of ORCID profiles and the ORCID registry. Such citations may be added to your profile manually, or imported (if the exporting database supports these characters).

I just donot want an ORCID identifier. Can I opt out?
Yes, you can simply delete your ORCID. We don’t recommend this, since we foresee a time when ORCIDs will be required for grant applications and by publishers.

* Most of the language has been taken from the ORCID information of Univ. of Michigan Library