

Project Statements 2017/18

Project Name: McMaster Experts

Project Lead: Dale Askey

Project Team: Jason Brodeur, John Fink, David Kemper, Debbie Lawlor, Matt McCollow, Gabriela Mircea, Olga Perkovic, Joanne Robertson, Roy Russell

Project Goals:

- Present full spectrum of McMaster research to the world via VIVO, a semantically advanced Web platform in use at many major research institutions.
- Reduce data redundancy across campus by creating an authoritative record of publications that can be reused by other McMaster Websites and for various analytical purposes.
- Demonstrate the value that libraries and bring to the curation and presentation of institutional data.

Linked to the following Strategic Directions:

#1 Research Acceleration: Enable new and emerging models for advancing knowledge and accelerating the University's research mission.

#5 Community Engagement: Build strong relationships with the community – both on campus and off.

Scope (work the project will include and will not include; end results):

- Implementation of VIVO using an appropriately branded interface.
- Refine Data Warehouse output to deliver properly populated HR feed of all McMaster faculty.
- Creation of reliable publication data source by implementing McMaster's first Research Information Management System (RIMS).
- Perform initial curation of profiles for all faculty members outside of FHS; coordinate with and train HSL staff to curate FHS profiles.

Time Frame (estimated): Preliminary work began in late 2015; project concludes in March 2018, transitioning to stable production.

Risks (circumstances or events outside of the project team's control that will have a high adverse impact on the project if they occur):

- Definition of "faculty" may be too broad; current definition posits 5,500 faculty members, many of whom may not curate their profiles or find them relevant.
- Expectations may exceed our ability to deliver desired results with current staffing and funding.
- Lack of cohesive vision around institutional data and processes, e.g., faculty self-reporting systems.
- Unclear model for transitioning projects such as this to status as core McMaster infrastructure supported by UTS.

Obstacles/Constraints: Funding and staffing.

Critical Milestones:

- Launch of public interface (November 2017)
- Transition to stable production (March 2018)
- Delivery of project report with recommendations for future phases (March 2018)
- Hiring permanent staff to support and develop Experts (May 2018; budget in place)

Assessment plan (how will the project and its outcomes be evaluated?):

- Number of profiles curated.
 - Web ranking and exposure.
 - Traffic to site (after establishing benchmark data).
 - API usage by other campus entities and Websites.
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Update #1 (Feb 2018):

What have you accomplished to date?

What do you hope to accomplish in the next 3 months?

What obstacles/constraints have you encountered (not noted above)?

Update #2 (April 2018):