ORCID

Connecting Research and Researchers

2015 Annual Report

Our Vision, Mission, and Values

ORCID's vision is a world where all who participate in research, scholarship, and innovation are uniquely identified and connected to their contributions across disciplines, borders, and time.

ORCID's mission is to provide an identifier for individuals to use with their name as they engage in research, scholarship, and innovation activities. We provide open tools that enable transparent and trustworthy connections between researchers, their contributions, and affiliations. We provide this service to help people find information and to simplify reporting and analysis.

ORCID is grounded by a set of core values. We are a not-for-profit organization, sustained by fees from our member organizations. Our work is open, transparent, and non-proprietary. We are guided by the principles of privacy and researcher control, and the vision of identifier-enabled research information infrastructure. We make decisions collaboratively, involving our staff, Board, those who support our mission, and the researchers and community that are the purpose of our work.

We take a global view. We have a diverse team, deployed internationally in our "virtual office." We engage with a wide range of organizations and people to ensure broad viewpoints. We strive to be a trusted component of research infrastructure with the goal of providing clarity in the breadth of research contributions and the people who make them.

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A Message from Laurel L. Haak, Executive Director

We had a lot to be thankful for in 2015: Helmsley Trust support, our 11(!) new staff, continuing enthusiasm for ORCID including growing adoption and mandates announced in the funding community, and our engaged Board and Steering Groups. One 2015 goal was to build up membership to position us in 2016 to reach "break even", meaning expenses = revenue. Two things are helping us reach this goal. We formally launched a consortium membership model at the beginning of 2015, which has now been adopted by three countries and three regional consortia, together representing over 200 new ORCID members. We onboarded a global membership team, thanks to a substantial grant from the The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust. Led by Doug Wright, this team has been working in Africa and the Middle East, Asia, Latin America, and Europe to foster understanding of ORCID, build partnerships, and bring on new member organizations, which can in turn support the adoption and use of ORCID throughout the research community. We started the year with the goal of doubling the number of researchers registered for an ORCID iD, to two million; we closed 2015 with 1.89 million live records, associated with over five million unique DOIs. The launch of auto-update by both Crossref and (soon) DataCite means that researchers now benefit from "enter once - reuse often." Those researchers who use their iD when they submit a paper or dataset need only to approve (once!) Crossref to make updates, and their ORCID record--and any system connected to it--will be updated with the DOI and associated information on publication. On the leadership front, during 2015, we helped lead a community effort to define and implement acknowledgement of peer review activities. We also released our Member Support Center. Designed as a one-stop shop for ORCID implementation, it combines our existing technical documentation with sector-specific workflow guides, and planning and communication resources. To put words into community action, thanks again to the Helmsley Trust award, we brought on board Alice Meadows, a new team of three regional support team members, and a logistics manager for our regional workshops and Outreach meetings. The new team is working well together and in 2016 we should be able to do amazing things.

Letter from Ed Pentz, Chair

As Laure highlights in her message, ORCID had a very big year in 2015. Not only were 11new staff added but a new structure was put in place to deliver on ORCID's ambitious global goals. The bylaws were updated by the Board to usher in new election process whereby, starting in 2016, new directors will be elected based on a majority vote of members with a slate of candidates proposed by a Nominating Committee. The new election process and the role of the Nominating Committee are described on the election information page on the website - http://orcid.org/content/board-elections. ORCID is rapidly maturing and has a great, professional staff excellently led by Laure Haak and is overseen by a dedicated board of directors representing all ORCID stakeholders. I'd like to thank the staff and the Board for all their hard work in ensuring that ORCID delivers on its mission and I'm looking forward to an exciting year of growth and change in 2016.

ORCID

Highlights of 2015

[2015 was an exciting year](#). The big story in 2015 was the notice of a major award from The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust, which is helping our organization to build capacity and membership around the world, starting with doubling in size from 10 staff in four countries to 20 in 10 countries.[1] We made substantial gains in adoption and technical offerings ([peer review](#)! SSO! so much more!). Our challenge for the remainder of 2015 was transforming Helmsley funding into on-the-ground results. We focused on strengthening team communications, clarifying processes, and ensuring consistent messaging. In addition to gearing up our staffing, we also onboarded six large consortia, which involved scaling up our technical support, infrastructure, and communications processes.

> **ORCID Organization**
> @ORCID_Org
> ORCID is awarded an 18-month, $3M grant by The Helmsley Charitable Trust to build int'l engagement capacity
> bit.ly/1c1W7Fa · Apr 07
>
> **Graham Steel**
> @McDawg
> @ORCID_Org WOW. JUST. WOW. This is fantastic news !!
> 04:45 PM · 07 Apr 15

We had four major goals in 2015: (1) building our membership base, (2) doubling registrations to 2M, (3) streamlining integration processes, and (4) increasing our international reach. We made substantial progress on all of our goals, as described in the table below. We also made progress toward our overarching goal: connecting research with researchers across disciplines, organizations, and countries. Are more researchers and contributors uniquely identified using ORCID iDs? Are more researchers and contributors reliably connected with their research? Does the community have confidence in the ORCID service and use it on a regular basis? Progress toward these goals is described in the Evaluating Progress Section following the table, where we analyze website visitors, registrants, members, and subscribers, and integrations. This is followed by sections on our Community Engagement Activities and New Features, and finally, a presentation of our year-end preliminary financials.

2015 Goal	Plan	Milestone	Status
Build membership to reach a break-even point in 2016	**Signed 61 new members, including 6 new consortia, bringing the total number of member organizations to 465 in 2015**		**Progress**
	Continue focus on universities and funders	Doubled [funder members](#) to 14, a number of whom are requiring ORCID; research institution membership increased fourfold from 63 to 270	**Progress**
	Build proportion of consortia membership	We added six new consortia in 2015, [Jisc](#)/UK (45+ universities and RCUK); [ANVUR](#)/Italy (75+ universities), [AAF/Australia](#) (36 universities, ARC, NHMRC, CSIRO, Heart Research Institute), CIC/USA (10 universities), GWLA/USA (30 universities), and NERL/USA (10 universities)	**Progress**
	Support membership growth with grant support for operations	[Helmsley Trust award](#) supported onboarding of [new membership team](#), regional support personnel, logistics coordinator, [communications director](#), and software developer	**Met**

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[1] Our independent ORCID EU affiliate brought on 1 new staffer in 2015, upon award of the H2020 [THOR project](#).

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	Website refresh: end-to-end support docs by sector, improve information flow	Launched Member Support Center in February	**Met**
	Research evaluation outreach	May outreach meeting focused on evaluation; related blog post and coverage of HEFCE Metric Tide report	**Progress**
	Support for pharma/COI/disclosure	Met with Convey/AAMC to discuss use of ORCID in platform	**Progress**
	Start outreach with Patent offices	Met with EPO	**Progress**
Double Registry to 2M users and increase proportion of active records	Reached 1.89 M registrants		**Progress**
	Engage researchers through members	Launched Member Support Center in February. Collaborated on auto-update with Crossref and DataCite	**Progress**
	Improve messaging: members and website	Launched community survey, started developing messaging framework	**Progress**
	Ambassadors: more support for presentations, involve in regional workshops, automate reporting, improve self-serve materials	Implemented back-office support for dissemination of outreach materials; implemented monthly Ambassador newsletter	**Progress**
	Technical infrastructure: migrate Registry servers	Migrated to larger DB servers. Work planned to move to AWS in 2016	**Met**
	Support Social Sciences and Humanities community	May outreach meeting focused on evaluation and SSH concerns. Connectors launched by SSRN, Modern Language Assn, and Springer Books	**Progress**
	Support for DMPs, software, peer review	Launched Peer Review Week and Early Adopter program	**Progress**
Support adoption by streamlining integration process	Issued 116 production credentials in 2015, double the 2014 number, for a total of 223 integrations since the launch of the Registry		**Met**
	Website refresh: automate API support	Improved credentialing workflow, launched API users listserv and started regular tech webinars	**Progress**
	Local implementation workshops, language-based support	Supported local workshops in Spain, Italy, UK, Turkey, South Africa, Nigeria, Brazil, Mexico, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, US; staff are based regionally and fluent in English, Spanish, Portuguese, Japanese, Chinese, Hindi, & Punjabi, and with facility in French & German	**Met**
	Member pages: end-to-end support docs by sector, improve information flow	Launched Member Support Center	**Met**
	API refresh: micro APIs	Rollout of API v.2 for activities; person component in test for rollout in 2016	**Progress**
Increase international reach of ORCID	Tripled number of European members, doubled Asia Pacific and North America members, and welcomed our first Latin America and Africa members		**Met**
	Funding for regional engagement	Helmsley Trust award enabled hiring of staff, supported regional meetings	**Met**
	Solidify ORCID EU outreach operations	THOR project awarded to ORCID EU and other partners; hired THOR Technical Support Officer	**Met**

	Expand team into Asia, Africa, South America	Expanded [team](#) regionally using Helmsley Trust funding: new Regional Directors and Support Team staff in South Africa, Botswana, Brazil, Mexico, Japan, and Hong Kong	**Met**
	Host ORCID Outreach meetings/ Codefests in Barcelona, San Francisco; and regional workshops	Done. [Barcelona meeting](#) hosted by Universidad de Barcelona; [San Francisco meeting](#) hosted by GitHub	**Met**
	Finalize national memberships	Finalized consortia membership agreements in the US (three), Australia, Italy, and UK	**Met**

Evaluating Progress

The core goal of ORCID is to connect research with researchers across disciplines, organizations, and countries. We address this fundamental need of the research community by providing a Registry of unique and persistent identifiers for researchers.

Our vision is a world where:
- researchers and contributors are uniquely identified using ORCID iDs
- researchers and contributors are reliably connected with their research and affiliations
- the community has confidence in the ORCID service and uses it on a regular basis

To determine progress toward that vision, we measure adoption of ORCID identifiers by researchers and organizations. We actively collect feedback through online forums and one-on-one interactions, including our Outreach meetings and workshops. Registration data are available on the ORCID website, updated on a weekly basis. We analyze usage and tracking data on a monthly basis, present quarterly reports to the ORCID Board, and summarize progress in a public Annual Report.
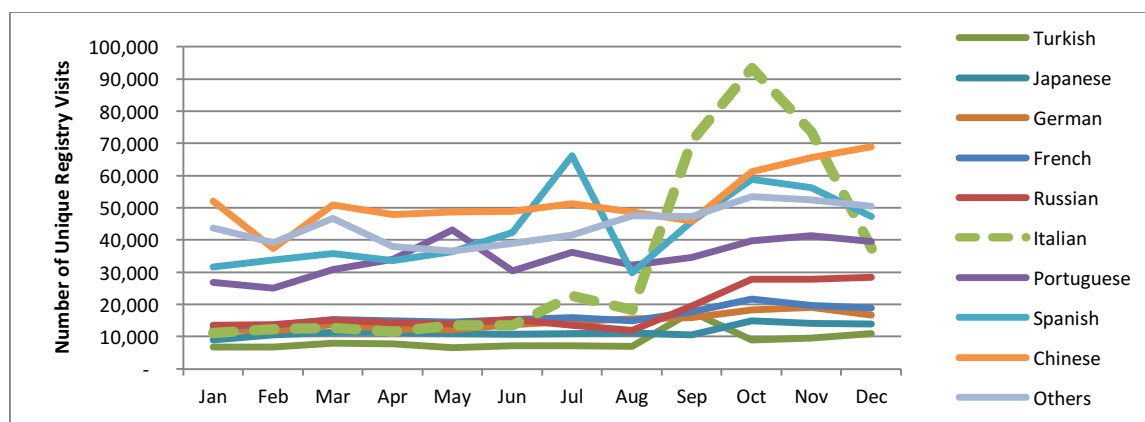
Visitors
4.9 million unique users visited the ORCID Registry in 2015, up from 3.4 million in 2014. Visits are from around the world, The spike in September/October correlates with the launch of the ANVUR consortium's central research information portal, Peer Review Week, communications about the ORCID inbox, and the launch of auto-update functionality by Crossref.
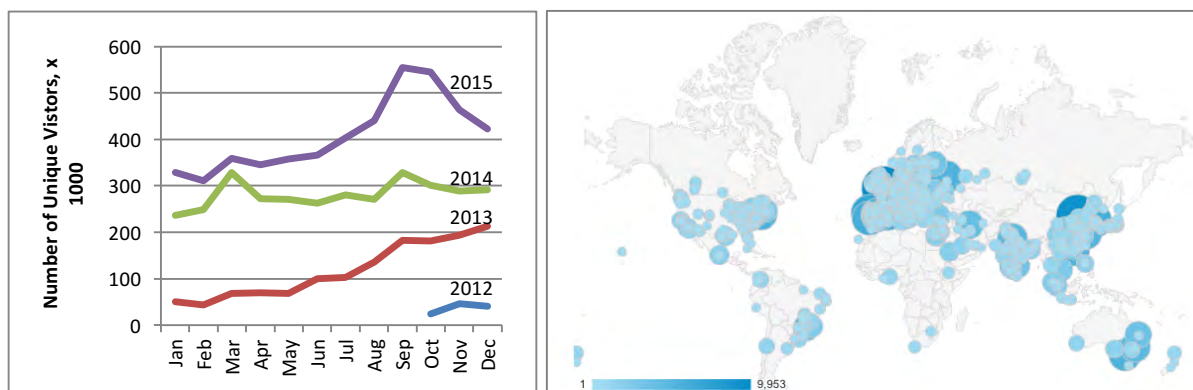
Left: **Unique Registry visitors, by month.** *Right:* **Registry visitors by country**

Registry use continues to grow internationally; we can measure this in two ways. Using Google Analytics, we see that the ORCID Registry receives traffic from all countries and territories, including 72 countries with over 10,000 unique visitors since launch (up from 54 at the end of 2013), 29 countries with over 100,000 visitors, and 132 countries with >1000 visitors (up from 94).

We also measure visits by browser language settings. In 2015, we launched Registry interfaces in Czech, Polish, and Italian, all supported by community experts. This brings to 12 the number of languages supported in the ORCID Registry. We see correlations between Registry traffic by language setting and regional events. The largest of these was Italian language traffic (dashed line, below), correlated with the launch of ANVUR's ORCID consortium in July and subsequent Italian Researcher Identifier for Evaluation announcement and portal launch in September. Other examples can be seen in September, when we held a workshop in Turkey and ABES (France) made an announcement about collaborating with ORCID. [Note: the chart does not include English language settings.]

Number of unique registry visitors in 2015, by browser language setting

Registrants

We started the year with the goal of doubling the number of researchers registered for an ORCID iD, to two million. By the end of 2015, 1.89 million researchers had registered for an ORCID identifier, a nearly two-fold increase over December 2014. ORCID records are associated with over five million unique DOIs, and over two million records each in Web of Science, Scopus, and Europe PubMed Central are associated with iDs. That means researchers are starting to feel the benefits of iD-supported search and discoverability. We still have a ways to go, both in terms of registrations and use. The launch of auto-update by Crossref (and soon, Datacite) means that researchers are also benefitting from "enter once - reuse often." Those researchers who use their iD when they submit a paper or dataset, need only to approve (once!) Crossref to make updates, and their ORCID record--and any system connected to it--will be updated with the DOI and associated information on publication.
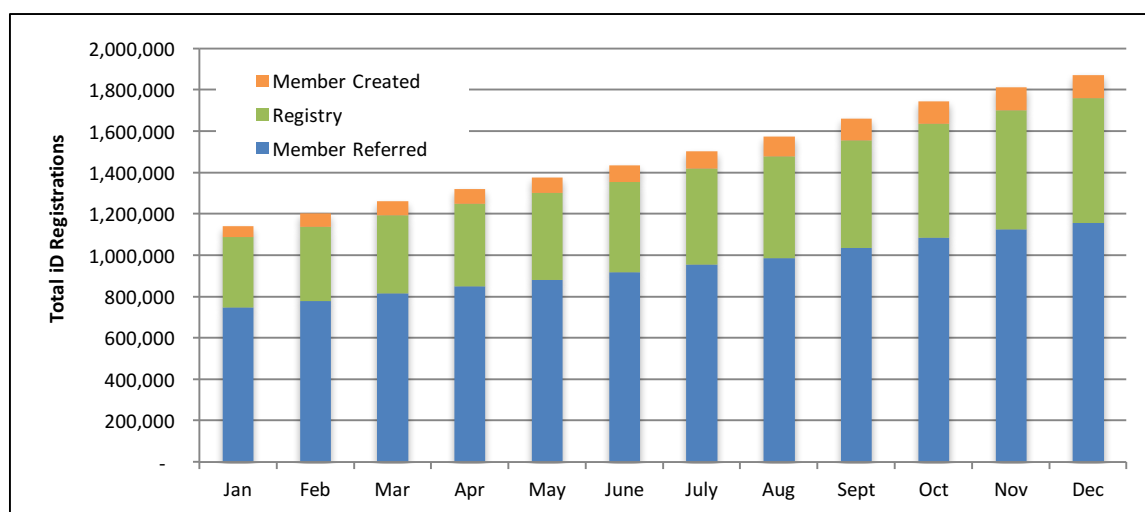

New Registrants in 2015 by month and method of registration

As in previous years, about one-third of registrations are from researchers coming directly to the website (middle/green in the chart above), and two-thirds from an interaction with an ORCID member integration workflow (bottom/blue), such as asking for an ORCID iD during manuscript submission, grant application, or universities facilitating the creation of ORCID records. Some of our member universities and research institutes bulk-created 65,000 records (8% of total) on behalf of their researchers (top/orange), of which, on average, only 30% were claimed. Because of this relatively low researcher response, and the likelihood of long-lasting unclaimed records and duplicate records using this process, in 2014 we started recommending an opt-in method for creating ORCID records, called "Create on Demand". In 2015, the Board decided to sunset bulk create processes for new members, and we are working with current members to support their transition.

Members and Subscribers

One of the big changes in 2015 was the building of a global membership team. Supported by a grant from the The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust, between May and July we brought Doug Wright on board as Membership Director and added three regional directors to augment our European staff. We now have Regional Directors based in the US, South America, Africa, Europe, and Asia with language competency in English, Spanish, Japanese, and Portuguese. The team has launched a series of workshops and training seminars, with meetings in South Africa, Kenya, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Spain, UK, Italy, Turkey, Brazil, Mexico, Columbia, Peru, Japan, Hong Kong, Taiwan, China, New Zealand, and Australia. The ability to travel and engage locally fosters understanding of ORCID, builds partnerships, and helps us grow our membership, which in turn supports the adoption and use of ORCID throughout the research community.
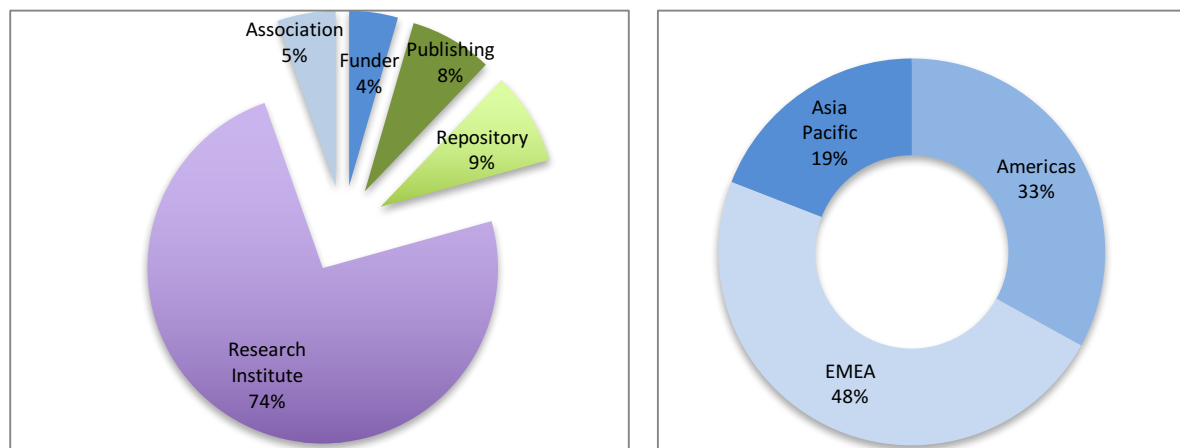

Year-end membership count by community sector (left) and region (right).

By the end of 2015, ORCID had welcomed 61 new members, including six new consortia in Italy, the United Kingdom, Australia, and the United States (x3), which combined had a membership of 270 at year-end. Together, these more than doubled our membership over 2014, for a total of 465 member organizations. We saw growth in membership across regions, including our first members in Brazil, Peru, South Africa, New Zealand, and Sri Lanka. Overall, 19% of our members are in the Asia Pacific region, 48% in Europe / Middle East / Africa, and 33% in the Americas. By sector, driven by the new consortia agreements, we saw a large increase in the number and proportion of research institution members, from 45% in 2014 to 74% in 2015. Hear from a few of our members about why they support ORCID in this short video.

Year-by-year new members by community sector (left) and region (right).
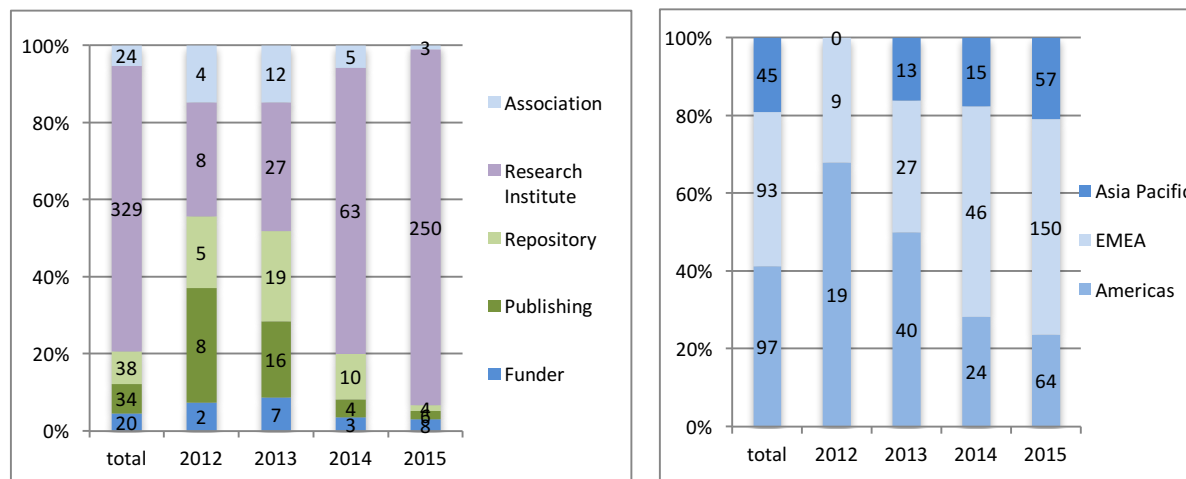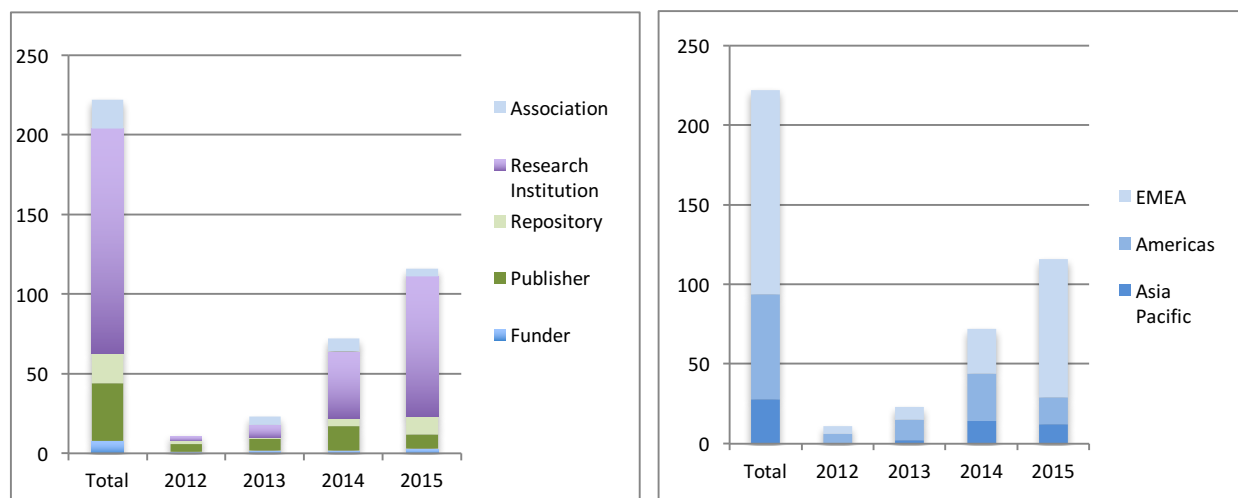

Integrations

For researchers to use their ORCID identifier, there need to be "transaction points" where the iD is collected. These transactions should involve researcher approval and API-based exchange of the iD, meaning that integrating organizations need to avoid using any type-in fields and instead implement API calls and an authenticated log-in protocol. These protocols are supported in both the public and member APIs, but can still present a technical barrier to adoption.

We've been collecting and developing effective practices on ORCID implementation, which we released via our Member Support Center in early 2015. Designed as a one-stop shop for ORCID implementation, the Member Support Center combines our existing technical documentation with sector-specific workflow guides, and planning and communication resources. For the research community to derive most benefit, each sector must play its part in collecting and connecting ORCID iDs. As part of this, we started to transition our research institute members from a batch create process to an opt-in method (Create on Demand) for facilitating the registration of their researchers. In 2016 we'll be expanding this resource to include specific actions and desired outcomes for each sector. Behind much of this is our support team, which, thanks again to the Helmsley Charitable Trust, we were able to expand to enable regional and language-specific coverage in Asia-Pacific, the Americas, and Europe/Africa/Middle East.

During 2015, we helped lead a community effort to define and implement acknowledgement of peer review activities. In February, we published a report on our Alfred P. Sloan-funded project supporting university adoption. In April, a broad consortium of Australian organizations released a joint statement on ORCID; and in June, Jisc published a summary of its ORCID pilot project.

Supported by new staff and resources, we continued to see growth in the number of integrations, from 103 in 2014, to 223 by the end of 2015. As in 2014, our university and research institute members launched three-quarters of all new integrations. We saw a three-fold increase in the number of integrations in Europe, driven by the consortia in Italy and the UK. In 2015 we also saw an increasing number of funders start to require the use of ORCID by grant applicants, and vendor platforms upgraded their integrations to support expanded ORCID functionality such as single sign-on and create-on-demand. Videos of several of these integrations were showcased at our November Outreach meeting.

Left: New integrations, by sector and year. Right: New integrations by region and year.

Of great importance was the launch of auto-update functionality by Crossref, which supports the automated flow of information from the time a researcher includes their iD at manuscript submission to the updating of their ORCID record with information about the published work. This is critical to demonstrating benefit of ORCID iDs to researchers, and also in encouraging other sectors to adopt ORCID. Illustrative of the adoption of ORCID by publishers, we saw in Crossref a growth from 180,660 DOIs with one or more authors with ORCIDs at the end of 2014, to 318,130 at the end of 2015, an increase of 76%. Auto-update was launched by Crossref in late October. By the end of 2015, Crossref had sent 228,537 authors requests for permission to update works; of these 28% (63,516) were approved, and 6% (3,584) were denied. This highlights both the scale of the opportunity and challenge in getting more authors to look for and accept these requests. ORCID is partnering with the publishing, university, and funding communities to explore communications options.

Serving the Research Community

Engagement of the research community is essential to the success of ORCID; using ORCID is not just about APIs and technical implementation. Certainly, infrastructure must be built but, for the most part, researchers should not have to worry about how it works. However, for the vision of "input information once and reuse across systems" to be realized, researchers must opt-in, register, and use their iD. For that to happen, there needs to be a place for them to use the iD, and clear instructions on why and how. Here, the Helmsley grant comes into play yet again; we were able to entice Alice Meadows to join our team and lead our communications efforts. She put into place our first community survey, starting the process for improving our messaging. The Helmsley grant also funds regular regional workshops led by our membership team, which have helped us both listen to and engage with communities in Africa, Middle East, Latin America, and Asia, in addition to our regular Outreach Meetings - this year in Barcelona and San Francisco. We are also involved in the THOR project, funded by a European Commission H2020 grant to our ORCID EU affiliate, which adds European-focused engagement and training on persistent identifiers. We added more languages to the Registry interface, too: Italian, Czech, and Polish. And, with our multi-lingual staff, we will be working over the course of the coming year to translate some of our implementation materials.

Outreach Meetings

ORCID supported two Outreach meetings in 2015. These meetings are free and open to the public, and provide an opportunity for ORCID to communicate status and plans, and to listen to the community.

In May we hosted an Outreach meeting at the Universitat de Barcelona, Spain, combining the ORCID Outreach Meeting and the CASRAI ReConnect conferences, and bringing our communities together to explore the latest issues and innovations in research information, scholarly communication and associated standards for interoperability. About 170 researchers, research administrators, publishers, vendors, and more gathered for two days of presentations and networking. The theme was Research Evaluation, with an emphasis on emerging practice in the Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH). In addition to panels, papers, and posters, we were delighted to host a successful Codefest.

In November, our Outreach Meeting and Codefest took place at the GitHub office in San Francisco, USA. We focused on enabling entrepreneurship with ORCID APIs and open data. Our goal was to bring together people who create and use research information systems and software to stimulate conversations, partnerships, and collaborations, and ultimately develop practical applications that improve information interoperability. We shared our 2016 Roadmap, and ORCID technical staff were there in force for a two-day-long open office, including another Codefest and hands-on API training session. Around 100 people across the scholarly community participated. Thanks to the generosity of our host, we were able to take advantage of their open salon venue and design the meeting to enable increased participant interaction and focus on strategy - a bit of a departure from our tactical approach in previous outreach meetings.

Resources for Answering User Questions

As an organization founded upon open principles, ORCID has worked to make materials and personnel accessible to support use of the Registry. With support from the Helmsley grant, we brought on three new support team members, and now have staff based in the US, Mexico, Hong Kong, and Botswana, with language skills in English, Spanish, Mandarin, and French. In addition to resources such as the Member Support Center, our Support Desk responded to between 578 and 1,596 tickets each month for a total of 10,000 user tickets. Initially focusing on the technical components of using the ORCID API, the support team is increasingly helping with other aspects of ORCID membership such as communication with researchers, display of ORCID images, language and branding on member sites, and advice on the text to be used when communicating with members' constituents about ORCID.

The team has developed a training program highlighting the technical and communications best practices that we share with member organizations, and in 2016 will be rolling this out with ORCID consortia technical leads. This program will prepare participants to be able to answer common user and integration questions, and direct members in creating high-quality integrations and communications about ORCID.

Ambassador Program

ORCID Ambassadors encourage the adoption and use of ORCID identifiers. In 2015, we initiated a monthly Ambassador newsletter and continued to support Ambassador communications on our BaseCamp network, and through help with external posters, talks, and promotional activities. Ambassador activities in 2015 included:

- Identifying and promoting notable ORCID iD holders
- Adding ORCID info to LibGuides, creating ORCID flyers (e.g., U Michigan, UT Knoxville)
- ORCID presentations (e.g., Maastricht University, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, WikiArabia, European Young Chemists' Network, International Astronomical Union)
- Multiple language versions of ORCID Wikipedia entry (Danish, Turkish, Finnish, Spanish, Swedish, Bengali, French, and more)
- ORCID videos (e.g., U Michigan, KU Leuven)
- Blog posts and articles (e.g., Royal Society of Arts blog, arXiv, wowter)
- Responding to conversations about ORCID on twitter (e.g., Why I'm not jumping on the ORCID bandwagon)

Presentations, Press, and Social Media

ORCID staff, Board members, Ambassadors, and volunteers presented on ORCID at numerous meetings and webinars in every inhabited continent. In addition to the workshops organized by the membership team, ORCID staff presented at nearly 100 meetings. We published 63 posts on the ORCID blog, including 13 by guest authors. The top three posts published in 2015 were: The Metadata Round Trip (5,245 views), A Host of Reasons Why Funders Should Be Investing in ORCID (1,609), and Auto-Update Has Arrived (1,266). In addition to writing several guest posts on various blogs, we also authored a peer-reviewed article in Learned Publishing, about peer review. We instituted a process to track articles and posts written about ORCID, and recorded 50 mentions, ranging from new library guides to blog posts to formal reports such as HEFCE's Metric Tide.

In 2015 we ramped up our efforts to proactively engage researchers using social media. We created a LinkedIn company profile in early July, and set up a newsfeed to keep followers up to date on our activities. We ended the year with 259 followers, about 30% of whom are from outside Europe and North America. We are posting once or twice a week, resulting in over 20,000 impressions since July, nearly 200 clicks, and over 300 interactions. The top LinkedIn post in terms of impressions was on The Royal Society requiring ORCID iDs for its authors (2,360).

In addition, we are using social marketing to drive community-focused campaigns to raise awareness of ORCID and increase memberships and registrations. For example, we partnered with ScienceOpen, Sense About Science, and Wiley to celebrate the first ever Peer Review Week (September 28 - October 2), timed to coincide with the first early adopters of our new peer review functionality going live. This generated a lot of interest and activity, including over 1,500 tweets, some of which can be seen in this Storify. Numerous organizations both large (e.g., Elsevier, Oxford University Press) and small (e.g., OpenScholar, ISMTE) participated.

During the course of the year, we posted 933 tweets, with double the volume of retweets, and increased our followers from 5943 to 9638. Mentions doubled from an average of 150 per month in 2014, to over 300 in 2015. Blogs, tweets, and other social media outlets have generated substantial traffic to the ORCID Registry, and continue to provide useful feedback from the community.

Supporting Members: Membership Policies

The success of ORCID depends on people and organizations throughout the research community using the Registry and embedding ORCID identifiers in external systems. In 2015, we saw a strong response to the consortium membership policy we rolled out in 2014, welcoming six new consortia with over 270 members. We updated our membership agreements to reflect feedback from the community, including ending our "Member Create" in favor of opt-in "Create on Demand" practices for all members. We have contacted all existing members using the Member Create functionality and are working to transition them to the new opt-in workflows. This includes working with system vendors to help detail requirements to enable opt-in workflows.

New Features

We released several Registry and API updates and new features for members and Registry users. In addition to the Member Support Center (members.orcid.org), we made progress on refactoring the API to support per-activity data calls and posts, and built a prototype of a federated login coupling process. We worked with Crossref to develop auto-update, and completed a supporting messaging interface. We supported acknowledgement of peer review activities, and we continued working to scale our systems to support our growing user and member base.
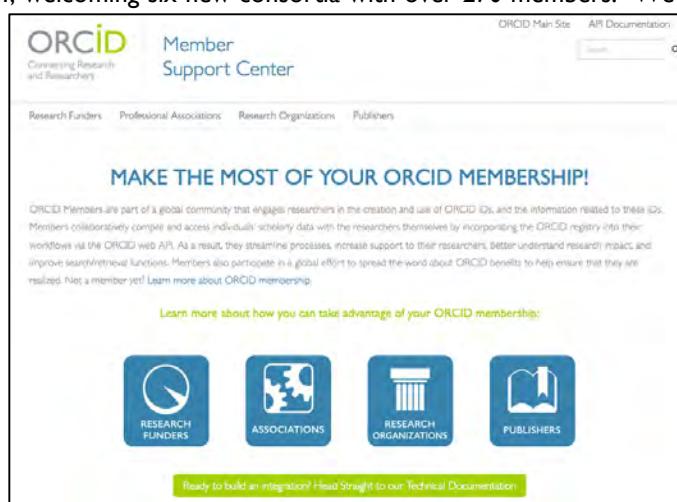
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Scalability

We focused most of our mid-year development efforts on ensuring scalability of the ORCID Registry, with improvements to servers, data structures, API refactoring, and the addition of a backup server in Ireland. The team did initial testing on a new search engine to power our API notification technology and collaborated internally on a website menu refresh project to improve information access for end users, and also supported Mozilla and other project partners on the Paper Badger project supporting contributor role types. Supported by the Helmsley Trust grant, the team added one new full-time contractor, based in Peru.

Peer Review

We made substantial progress on our peer review acknowledgement project, completing activity on the external Peer review working group, and then initiated our peer review early adopter program, including a Getting Started guide, discussion forum, and a survey to collect details about new integrations. Faculty of 1000 – the first of several early adopters – launched their implementation in September, followed by Publons in October, and AGU in December. Organizations can now (with the record-holder's permission) update ORCID records with information about peer review activities, whether for journal articles, grant or conference submissions, promotion and tenure applications, or more, irrespective of whether the review is open or closed, pre- or post-publication.

Recommendations for a #peerreview activity data profile bit.ly/1GxdCpl @ORCID_Org @casrai @F1000

Auto-update

We launched the ORCID Inbox, a new feature on the ORCID registry that aggregates messages and allows record-holders to specify frequency of alerts. This also makes it possible for member organizations (Crossref and – soon - DataCite in the first instance) to ask iD holders for permission to automatically update their ORCID records when a DOI is minted for a work that includes their iD. The Inbox is paired with a messaging API that allows a member to send a request to a user to ask for persistent permission to update their record. Once permission is granted, all future updates will be automatic. Crossref launched its auto-update workflow in late 2015, and DataCite will shortly follow suit.
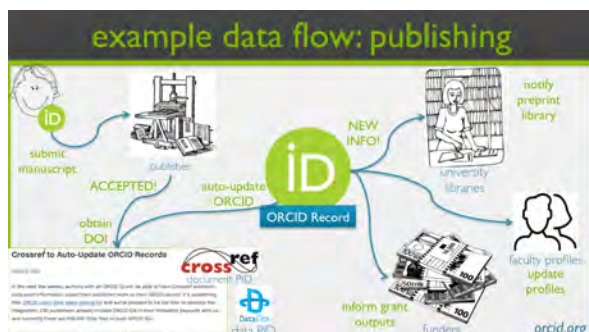
Sign into ORCID via…

Signing into the ORCID registry will soon be even easier. The team has been working to integrate institutional Single Sign On (SSO) and sign in using social accounts like Google and Facebook. A user selecting one of these methods will be asked to sign in using his/her ORCID credentials to link the two accounts. Once linked, either method can be used to sign in. This functionality is now in testing, and is expected to launch in early 2016.

ORCID

Operations

Behind every successful organization is an effective and efficient back office. In 2015, our operations team made it possible to onboard 11 new staff – contractors and employees in nine countries -- in less than six months, a major accomplishment. The team also streamlined our membership workflow and record management, including an electronic signature process, which has improved the agreement process for our new and renewing members. Building on that, we have rolled out the first iteration of a streamlined consortium onboarding process, which we continue to improve. We've also integrated our membership tracking system into our website backend, to streamline updating of member logos and integration descriptions. Again with Helmsley funding, we hired a logistics coordinator, who has been responsible for managing our two Outreach meetings and many workshop events. We initiated development of a workshops toolkit to standardize workshop agendas, presentations, collateral kits, and feedback surveys, and processes for tracking and recording events and meetings. The operations team was also responsible for regular financial reporting and for assisting our Audit Committee in our annual audit process.

ORCiD
Financial Highlights

Letter from Bernie Rous, Treasurer

2015 was *The Year of the Grant* that effectively doubled the size of ORCID and made previous expense and revenue budgets and actuals irrelevant, requiring a major reforecast. The grant from the Helmsley Trust *reset* the organization. It allows us time to invest resources in growing membership. Despite the change in *scale*, ORCID's membership revenue still lags behind its operating expense. We need to keep our focus on monitoring that difference.

I note three reasons for optimism. Total membership revenue for 2015 was US$1.7M compared to $707K in 2014. At same time, total expense rose from $1.4M in 2014 to $2.5M in 2015, largely due to increases in staff. In 2014, the membership dues covered 58% of operating expense, and in 2015, membership dues covered 72% of operating expense. Thus the gap we need to close is getting smaller.

It is also fair to say that the 2015 doubling of staff cannot be fully effective in terms of generation of revenue in 2015. Prospects for substantial revenue increase in 2016 are entirely reasonable. What we have to monitor closely is the full annualization of staff expenses in 2016 against the expected revenue increase. The final point is that our *business model* is not really exactly the same as in 2014. There has been a shift away from individual membership towards large consortia – and this shift appears to be making a difference in terms of reaching sustainability.

What we see in the 2016 budget is a further closing of the gap between member dues and operating expense. In 2016, the grant money covers 56% of expense, but the revenue from dues is expected to cover 72% of expense. The results should be a positive 28% net and a lot more time now to reach sustainability than we had a year ago.

- Income for the full year totaled $4,601,190. Cash income received in 2015 came from grants ($3,086,725) and new membership fees ($507,889), with $38K from sponsorships for Outreach meetings and workshops.
- Expenses of $2,481,428 were 15% below the budget, largely due to the timing of new hires. The primary expenses continue to be for staff, 72% of ORCID's operating spend. The current staff is comprised of 21 full-time employees and contractors.
- Cash at year-end totaled $2,615,569, which is sufficient to cover more than 3 months of 2016 projected expenses.
- Renewals are anticipated to bring in an additional $1.16M in revenue in Q1 2016.
- Outstanding new memberships look promising, with a pipeline of over $600K at 2015 year end. Additional standard and group memberships are in discussion.
- We will be moving to accrual-based financial reporting in 2016. 2015 accrued membership revenue (new and continuing members) was $1,333,826, a 62% increase from last year. Our goal is to grow our membership base by $1.2 million in 2016 to reach break-even by the end of the year.

Recognition of 2015 Sponsors

Grants. We thank the Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust for their support of ORCID.

Meeting and Workshop Sponsors. To be able to offer our Outreach meetings and workshops for no fee, ORCID thanks the following organizations for their sponsorship support:

Aries Systems Corporation
Academic Analytics
AIRITI Inc.
Altmetric LLP
Aries Systems Corporation
Avantica Technologies
Crossref
Digital Science
CABI International
EBSCO South Africa
Elsevier
Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation
GitHub
Helmsley Charitable Trust
iGroup
Piirus
PLOS-Public Library of Science
Plum Analytics
SmartSimple Software Inc.
Taylor & Francis
Thomson Reuters
UberResearch
Universitat de Barcelona
Wellcome Trust

ORCID

Who We Are

2015 ORCID Board

ORCID is governed by an elected Board of Directors, comprised of representatives from 14 ORCID member organizations, a majority of which are non-profits, and also one researcher. The Board is responsible for establishing general policies for the governance of ORCID, based on a set of core principles, among them openness and transparency. In addition to the Board of Directors, membership of ORCID Steering Groups, which are focused on gathering input on business, technical, and communications matters, is open to the research community. In 2015 we experienced some Director turnover; in each case, the seat was replaced with the member organization alternate, as per the bylaws active in 2015. The Board deliberated and then in November passed notable changes to the bylaws, including revisions to remove alternates, adding member elections for Directors, and adding a provision that changing the core ORCID principle - that researchers are able to create an iD and edit and maintain an ORCID record free of charge - would require approval by both the Board of Directors and the members.

Association for Computing Machinery (ACM), Bernard Rous
CERN, Salvatore Mele
Chalmers University of Technology, Jonas Gilbert (Jan – Oct) Daniel Forsman (Nov-Dec)
Cornell University Library, Simeon Warner
Crossref, Ed Pentz (Chair)
Elsevier, Chris Shillum
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Micah Altman
National Institute of Informatics (NII), Hideaki Takeda
Nature Publishing Group, Veronique Kiermer (Jan – Jul), John Carroll (Aug- Dec)
ORCID, Laurel Haak (Secretary), *ex officio*
Online Computer Library Center (OCLC), Thomas Hickey
Researcher representative, Marta Soler-Gallart
Thomson Reuters, Patricia Brennan
Wellcome Trust, Liz Allen (Jan – Jul), Robert Kiley (Sept-Dec)
Wiley, Craig Van Dyck (Jan – Jun), Edward Wates (Jul – Dec)

2015 ORCID Staff

ORCID is a distributed organization, with no central office location; we work from locations around the world. Our ORCID EU affiliate has two staff members in Europe, supported in part by THOR project funding. In 2015, we onboarded 10 staff in nine countries with Helmsley Trust funding, creating a new international membership team, a communications position, expanding our support team, and adding to our operations and technical teams. We are now 21 strong in 10 countries! *[c] indicates contractor.*

Josh Brown, Regional Director, Europe
Matthew Buys, *[c]* Regional Director, Middle East/Africa
Ana Patricia Cardoso, *[c]* Member Services and Support Specialist, Latin America
Tom Demeranville, Sr Technical Officer, THOR
Laurel Haak, Executive Director
Liz Krznarich, Member Services/Software Engineer
Alice Meadows, Director of Communications
Nobuko Miyairi, *[c]* Regional Director, Asia/Pacific
Angel Montenegro, *[c]* Sr Software Engineer
Marieannette Otero, Logistics Coordinator
Laura Paglione, Technical Director

Lilian Pessoa, *[c]* Regional Director, Latin America
Rob Peters, Lead Developer
Fran Ramirez Monge, *[c]* Sr Software Engineer
Cheryl Sethate, *[c]* Member Services and Support Specialist, Europe/Middle East/Africa
Will Simpson, Software Architect
Claudia Soriano, Director, Operations
Shobit Tyagi, *[c]* Java Developer
Catalina Wilmers, Lead, Member Services
Doug Wright, Director, Membership
Alainna Therese Wrigley, *[c]* Member Services and Support Specialist, Asia/Pacific