

Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research- our experience using the NZ ORCID Hub

Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research have recently onboarded to the NZ ORCID Hub. Over the past 2 months we have been connecting our researchers' ORCID IDs to the Hub, and obtaining authorisation to allow us to help staff maintain their ORCID record.

The first step was an introductory email to researchers where we briefly outlined the NZ ORCID Hub with links to some information on ORCID and the Hub from the Royal Society ORCID pages (which contain lots of useful information). We also attached a separate document with a little more detail about ORCID, why connect to the Hub, and answers to a few common questions (based on ORCID NZ FAQs). In our email we included both an internal contact, and an external ORCID NZ contact in case people had any questions.

Meanwhile, we extracted information on our research staff from our HR system in order to prepare affiliation files for uploading batches of researcher data to the Hub - this was a fairly straightforward task done in Excel. After testing a modified extract of the data in the ORCID Hub test environment we were ready to begin connecting our researchers. A follow-up email was sent explaining that researchers would soon receive an invitation to connect to the Hub and grant Manaaki Whenua permission to help maintain their ORCID record. We included screen shots so they knew what to look out for. For those new to ORCID we provided some advice on privacy (visibility) settings, and a real example of an ORCID record.

As many staff had already, manually, entered their own employment information we also noted how to handle the duplication – to carefully either hide or delete the manually entered record and not the more official Manaaki Whenua asserted record. For staff new to ORCID we also highlighted that a future email would explain how to automatically populate your ORCID record (so you don't have to type it all in manually).

We framed our communications around ORCID becoming an increasingly necessary ID for researchers (required by funders, journals...), and we encouraged connection via the Hub so we could help maintain their ORCID record, going forward. This message seemed well received, with about 75% of staff researchers connected so far and some encouraging emails pleased that we were onboard with ORCID. Staff also appreciated the tips on auto populating their ORCID record with their works. In hindsight, we should have waited a few weeks before beginning the process of connecting staff as our efforts coincided with MBIE bidding, meaning some staff did not initially engage, and required follow-up. The other thing we would do differently would be not to include the generic link to connect – uploading a file to generate individual invites with their tailored information was very easy and gave a much better result.

Beyond affirming employment information, we are encouraging staff to authorise DataCite to write to their ORCID record so that works for which we issue a DOI can be automatically updated in their record. Our immediate goal is to connect the remaining researchers, and in future there is potential to link research outputs other than journal papers (i.e. things not automatically captured through Crossref/Scopus).

Onboarding to the Hub has been a very positive experience, with excellent support from Royal Society Te Apārangi/ORCID NZ.

(Aaron McGlinchy, ORCID technical contact for Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research)