Introducing a faculty profiles portal pilot project

About the Profiles portal

Profiles is a publicly accessible and easily searchable knowledge base for exploring the expertise and research interests of the faculty, departments, institutes and centers of the School of Medicine.

It uses the Pure portal platform developed by Elsevier, and during the pilot phase that runs through October 2019, will contain profiles of over 2,000 medical school faculty.

Benefits to faculty and departments

• Departments and faculty get a central location for storing information on faculty research interests, publications and collaborations.

• New publications are added weekly to each profile as they become available in Elsevier's Scopus database.

• School of Medicine faculty members, postdoctoral fellows and students can easily find experts and potential collaborators on campus using a name, department, keyword or concept search.

• Information stored in Profiles can be extracted for other internal uses including data warehouses, spreadsheets, reporting tools, and department/staff web pages (e.g. WUPS) to eliminate redundant data management.

• Easy visualization and reporting of research collaborations among individual faculty members and departments within the School of Medicine.

• Easy-to-use interface for visualization of institutional collaborations with organizations worldwide.

• A single, consistent and accurate public-facing presence for commercial or non-profit entities to identify potential collaborators.

Additional functionality is available

Beyond faculty profiles, the Pure platform has the ability to track other research related information such as grants, equipment, and core facilities. It also has extensive tools for creating and distributing custom reports.

These features are not fully available during the pilot period, but could offer significant benefits if the system is adopted.

Frequently asked questions

Who is included in Profiles?

Approximately 2,000 faculty from the School of Medicine are included in Profiles. This includes faculty with the rank of assistant professor, associate professor, professor, and emeritus professor.

How is information added to Profiles?

- Names, current rank, departmental appointments, titles, and contact information are populated from Washington University HRMS.

- Publications and citation counts are captured from Elsevier's Scopus database.

- "Fingerprints" associated with individual and organizational unit profiles are generated by Elsevier based on data mining of individual publications.

- Social media mentions are provided from two sources – PlumX and Altmetric.

How often is Profiles data updated?

- Social media analytics (PlumX and Altmetric) are updated daily.

- Publications are updated weekly (once a profile is established).

- Citation data is updated monthly.

- Data from Washington University HRMS will be updated on a semi-annual basis.

How reliable is Profiles data?

Profiles includes feeds from Scopus, as well as information provided by HRMS and additional internal data sources, to reflect faculty affiliations with institutes, centers and programs beyond departmental appointments. While every effort is made to account for accuracy in the data, it is possible to have missing publications as well as publications not authored by a faculty member in question. Contact the Profiles support team at profiles@wustl.edu if you have specific questions about your profile data. Please note that citation data will likely vary from Web of Science or Google Scholar statistics.

Who is in charge of this project?

Profiles is a pilot project that runs through October 2019, funded by the School of Medicine Office of the Dean and the Institute of Clinical and Translational Sciences (ICTS). Becker Library is working with Elsevier on Profiles implementation and data population in addition to providing demonstrations, answering questions, and gathering feedback to help determine whether to adopt the platform beyond the pilot period.