

RESEARCH IMPACT TEAM

Overview:

The Research Impact Team enhances the representation and impact of the university's research endeavors and scholarly communication through its management of VERSO, the university's research information management and Institutional Repository system, its promotion of university research, and its efforts to facilitate connections between university researchers.

Library KPIs:

- Research Information Management
 - Profiles
 - Research Assets
 - Research Assets by Type
 - Research Output Downloads and Views
- [Esploro KPI Dashboard](#)

Objectives (includes timebound goals and projects):

Create clear policies and procedures for both public and internal users using VERSO and related research data workflows

- **Why:**
 - To make it possible for all users to accomplish necessary tasks using up-to-date information at time of need
- **How:**
 - Develop and disseminate comprehensive, public-facing documentation to assist users in profile development and system utilization.
 - Develop and disseminate comprehensive, public-facing policies to educate users in proper system use and their rights/obligations.
 - Develop and communicate comprehensive, intra-library documentation to assist library users in profile development and system utilization.
 - Develop and communicate comprehensive, intra-library policies to educate staff in proper system use and user rights/obligations.
- **Success looks like:**
 - Published and up-to-date documentation for internal and public users is available via a live website.
- **Fall update:**
 - Live sites are available for public-facing [procedures](#) and [policies](#), as well as internal [procedures](#). There is not yet a site for internal policies, simply a [spreadsheet](#).
 - Of the preliminary 12 topics identified for internal procedures, 10 have some form of documentation, covering most short-to-medium-term recurring tasks.

- There are many open policy questions. The team decides them by drafting ½ - 1 page policy proposals, discussing them in a quorum, voting on them, and recording the results in minutes and [our policies folder](#).
 - Currently, public-facing documentation relies a lot on existing Ex Libris tutorials (e.g., [Adding Output to a Profile](#)). We have not received sufficient feedback from users to determine whether this is adequate or not.
- o **Spring update:**
- The [public facing procedures](#) site has been updated. Previously, it included information about editing profiles and assets. Now it also includes information about exporting assets and controlling privacy. Links to Ex Libris' generic Esploro documentation have also been replaced with VERSO/U of I branded examples. Future topics, such as adding/changing profile pictures, have been identified.
 - No additional internal procedures have been documented. Additional topics such as minting DOI's and markdown best practices have been identified.
 - Policy decisions continue to be made as needed and are recorded in the [policies](#) folder. Accepted policies include:
 - [what counts as research which can be submitted to VERSO](#). Brief summary: FSH [5100](#) and [1320](#) jointly define what counts as research for the University. The RI team policy states we follow the University definitions. Moreover, since VERSO's mission is [to preserve and provide access to U of I research/creative output](#) the policy states it is appropriate for VERSO staff to act as stewards and reject non-research submissions, while acknowledging the importance of subject-matter expertise and the existence of grey areas.
 - [whether pre-prints ought to be included as research and allowed in VERSO](#). Brief summary: yes, as long as they do not become the majority of the content within VERSO. Pre-prints are an important form of scholarly communication and so should be included. However, they are not considered authoritative versions of record and so should not be VERSO's main focus.
 - [maximum sizes for file submissions](#). Brief summary: VERSO deposits are limited to 20GB or less. Larger submissions can have metadata records in VERSO but must be hosted elsewhere. VERSO staff will assist with external hosting (e.g., by coordinating with RCDS) if necessary. 20GB was chosen to balance the fact that (1) VERSO currently has a 3TB storage limit which we don't want to exceed, but (2) there is demonstrated interest in using VERSO as a dataset repository and replacement to RCDS's DKAN repository; the lower the file size limit the less helpful VERSO becomes for those users.
 - [preserving/archiving VERSO data](#). Brief summary: Every six months the RI team will work with the Digital Lab Manager to ensure a copy of all researcher metadata, research output metadata, and fulltext documents are stored in the digital archives folders and linked to relevant special collections. This backs-up

important data, facilitates future re-use or analysis, and ensures the RI team shares important collections info with SPEC.

Develop and improve institutional repository capabilities for library and internal partners

- o **Why:**
 - To take advantage of system capabilities and serve campus needs
- o **How:**
 - Build relationships with campus entities that can use our IR capabilities.
 - Work with Extension to create means for using VERSO as possible publication venue.
- o **Success looks like:**
 - Successfully integrating significant collections and ongoing collaborations with cross-campus entities, including Extension
 - Clear policies and documentation developed and published for internal and public users
- o **Fall update:**
 - o All “active” extension publications in the Pacific Northwest Publication and Extension Bulletin Series are in VERSO, totaling [287](#) and [246](#) outputs, respectively. We have workflows for ingesting new active publications and are developing workflows to move inactivated publications from VERSO to a digital collection.
 - o We are also working with IIDS to archive as much of their [data repository as possible](#). We have the workflows to do that but need to make a policy decision on which datasets are too large to store in VERSO and should instead link out. That collection totals 413 outputs.
 - o We have also worked with the McClure Center for Public Policy to ingest their publications, newsletters, and reports, as well as set up workflows for further submissions. [This totals 130 outputs](#).
 - o We have automated ingestion of all theses and dissertations (2261 as of 5/19/2025).
 - o We have not developed generalized policies and procedures for initiatives like the above beyond instructing users to contact lib-verso@uidaho.edu. It’s not clear that we can create generalized workflows at this time. We have not done enough of these collaborations to anticipate or prescribe how they ought to go.
- o **Spring update:**
 - o VERSO is now the preferred data repository for the U of I. All 413 datasets in IIDS’s [DKAN](#) repository now have records in VERSO. All but the largest datasets have been moved into VERSO. All future datasets will be represented in VERSO, and any 20GB or smaller will be hosted in VERSO.
 - o The team has worked with RCDS to develop the [Collaboration Network](#), a site that uses VERSO assets and researcher profiles to make U of I research and researchers more discoverable. Collaboration Network uses LLMs to summarize the content of researcher VERSO profiles, match them to a user’s natural

language queries, and serve up relevant researchers and research outputs from VERSO. Closed beta testing of the Collaboration Network began in Nov 2024. The RI team continues to work with IIDS in anticipation of a broader release sometime during FY26.

- The team is working to scrape the fulltext and metadata of open access UI publications listed in [OpenAlex](#). It is too early for precise estimates, but preliminary data suggests this could improve or ingest ~1k – 5k assets.
- The team has also received enhanced metadata for ~8k VERSO assets which IIDS scraped from Semantic Scholar for their CollabNet. We are working to parse the data, load it into VERSO, and ensure the process is reversible if necessary.

Ensure Researcher Profiles and Asset presentation is up-to-date and accurate in VERSO

- **Why:**
 - To amplify the research and researchers at the University of Idaho
- **How:**
 - Develop and disseminate prototypes of a variety of possible research representing tools including:
 - Subject or department specific collections
 - Analytics reports
 - visualizations
- **Success looks like:**
 - 95% of profiles accurately portray research of individuals.
 - Ensure 100% profile coverage for all faculty members.
 - Attain 85% profile coverage for non-faculty (research staff, post-docs) researchers.
 - 1 prototype of each research-representing tool disseminated to 1 or more departments within each College.
- **Fall update:**
 - Based on information from the Provost's office, we have profiles for all 770 current UI faculty, as well as an additional 87 miscellaneous profiles for 857 total. Of those, 10 (1.2%) still need biographic information corrected or added.
 - It's not clear how to determine whether profiles accurately portray the research of individuals because there is no single master list. However, we can make some relative judgments:
 - Of the 857 profiles, 346 (40%) have fewer than 10 outputs. Depending on the faculty member fewer than 10 may be acceptable but having fewer outputs reduces the accuracy of VERSO's automated publication ingestion.
 - Of the total 181 communications received from faculty and librarian liaisons, 23 (13%) mentioned output/metadata issues.

- Of the 23,061 assets: 6568 (29%) have abstracts, 15142 (66%) have links to access the output on the web or provide access to the file directly in VERSO, and 5195 (23%) are tagged with either research topics or keywords.
 - VERSO is best at automatically ingesting STEM outputs. It is moderate for social sciences and humanities but misses non-traditional scholarly publications like sculptures or exhibitions completely. We worked to solicit CV's and input from humanities scholars but did not receive enough feedback to create workflows for fixing this gap.
 - It's not clear how to determine the population of non-faculty researchers. The 87-non-faculty profiles in VERSO are certainly an underestimate.
 - Several specialized collections have been developed. One for [COGS](#), two for CIIRE in EHHS ([1](#), [2](#)), and two for CALS extension ([1](#), [2](#)).
- **Spring update:**
 - The Fall update underestimated the number of profiles needing biographical info corrections by leaving out researchers with missing education fields. As such, despite the 10 researchers identified in the Fall being fixed, the Spring analysis shows 14 of 882 (1.6%) profiles require additional bibliographic info.
 - We continue to explore how to best measure whether 95% of profiles accurately portray the research of individuals. The team reached out to a statistical process control expert in Math/Stats to develop a method of sampling profile accuracy by comparing profiles to CV's. However, retrieving up-to-date CV's is a challenge. Manually comparing CV's to VERSO profiles may also be too labor intensive for the amount of metadata they contain, as well as being redundant with an existing IIDS project to automatically extract data from CV's. Next year's charging document suggests an updated approach.
 - We also continue to explore how to determine 85% coverage for non-faculty researchers. The team has found and exported relevant data from PeopleAdmin and Argos, but still needs to process it and work with individual Colleges to verify we're interpreting it correctly. Next year's charging document suggests an updated approach.

Final Outcomes:

The team has had three main directions: developing documentation, making policy decisions, and improving the quality of VERSO data.

The main challenge for data improvements is difficulty finding comprehensive, accurate records of researcher publications that we could use as benchmarks. This makes it difficult to assess whether "95% of profiles accurately portray research of individuals" and whether we have attained "85% of profile coverage for non-faculty".

Our main successes in this area are:

1. 100% profile coverage of all faculty with 98.4% correct biographical information.
2. Ongoing collaborations with CALS, CNR, COGS, and IIDS to ingest IR materials, totaling 3337 this year.

The main challenge for developing documentation and policy is the lack of feedback from users. This makes it difficult to decide which parts of VERSO are intuitive or require documentation, and which policies are most relevant to users.

Nevertheless, our main successes in this area are:

1. establishing a baseline set of [internal documentation](#) explaining procedures for checking asset metadata quality, researcher profile quality, and managing large chunks of VERSO data.
2. Creating [public-facing documentation](#) walking users through editing and adding content to their profile, managing their privacy settings and when/how to contact the VERSO team,
3. developing and implementing a workflow for making policy decisions at times of need, and
4. performing outreach to campus by presenting to faculty senate, CALS and CoE departments, holding office hours, and coordinating with liaisons to disseminate VERSO info and documentation.

Challenges and Opportunities for Next Year:

The team's work ingesting and curating bulk IR deposits has developed the Esploro/programming skills needed for larger, more data-intensive improvements to VERSO. Based on [COAR's Good Practices for IR's](#), the team identified at least two ways to further improve VERSO's data:

1. review existing VERSO assets to ensure as many as possible include or link out to the fulltext of resources.
2. continue to identify and ingest IR materials, such as (1) OA U of I publications listed in OpenAlex but not VERSO, and (2) CDIL projects.

The COAR framework also recommends developing digital preservation plans, which dovetails with the recently adopted preservation policy. As such, implementing and documenting policy is another major priority for the upcoming year.

Again, it was a challenge to measure whether "95% of profiles accurately portray research of individuals" and whether we have attained "85% of profile coverage for non-faculty" by compiling a

master list of researchers and research outputs. Next year the team will attempt to assess accuracy and coverage by regularly and systematically soliciting user feedback on those issues.

Finally, the team may pursue other opportunities as we are able. These include:

1. Adding a default CC license to the VERSO asset depositor agreement and choosing a license for reuse of VERSO's metadata. This would improve our documentation by providing more detailed info about what rights VERSO researchers retain.
2. Improving the discoverability of VERSO by connecting with third party metadata discovery services like OAI-PMH, OpenDOAR, and others.
3. Developing an OA dashboard summarizing amount and types of OA materials in VERSO. This could be useful externally to communicate VERSO's capabilities to stakeholders by emphasizing the discoverability and access it provides. It could also be used internally to collaborate with Open Strategies on assessing OA adoption across campus.

Unit/Team Metrics:

Metric	Sub-metric	Time period		Notes
		Fall '24	Spring '25	
% of profiles created for new faculty and non-faculty researchers	New faculty	100	100	Information on current faculty is provided by the Provost once a year so we should not expect much change between Fall and Spring semesters of the same FY.
	Non-faculty	unknown	unknown	Still identifying population
Number of communications received from faculty, including negative communications regarding data accuracy	Negative	6	8	includes the VERSO "Report an Issue" form and emails sent to the "lib-verso@uidaho.edu" address. Does not include direct communications with RI team members
	Positive/neutral	10	3	

Amount and character of suggestions received from liaisons librarians about parts of VERSO relevant to their subject areas	Biographical info corrections	153	0	The RI team has not systematically solicited liaison feedback since the previous update.
	Output metadata corrections	20	0	
Website engagement stats for system overall	Total users	6140	7568	
	Total views	47686	47581	
Number of IR documents by department: bulk uploads	CALS extension	533	-	
	McClure Center for Public Policy	130	-	
	DKAN (IIDS Dataset repository)	-	413	
	ETD's	-	2261	VERSO automatically ingests ETDs as COGS processes them.
Number of IR documents by department: individual assets submitted by researchers	<u>College of Agricultural and Life Sciences</u>	0	0	Researchers with college-level associations rather than department-level are usually administrators or research support staff
	UI Extension, Bingham County	0	1	
	UI Extension, Bonneville County	0	1	
	UI Extension, Franklin County	0	1	

UI Extension, Madison County	0	1	
UI Extension, Payette County	9	0	
Margaret Ritchie School of Family and Consumer Sciences	0	1	
<u>College of Art and Architecture</u>	1	0	
Art and Design	0	1	
Theatre Arts	1	0	
<u>College of Business and Economics</u>	0	0	
Business	0	8	
<u>College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences</u>	1	0	
Curriculum and Instruction	7	2	
Leadership and Counseling	102	20	
WWAMI Medical Education Program	0	1	
<u>College of Engineering</u>	0	0	
Computer Science	0	3	
Electrical and Computer Engineering	1	0	
Nuclear Engineering and Industrial Management	0	1	
<u>College of Graduate Studies</u>	1	0	

<u>College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences</u>	1	1	
English	1	1	
History	6	1	
Psychology and Communication	0	1	
School of Journalism and Mass Media	0	4	
<u>University of Idaho Library</u>	37	15	
Center for Digital Inquiry and Learning	8	0	
<u>College of Natural Resources</u>	1	0	
Entomology, Plant Pathology, and Nematology	3	0	
Forest, Rangeland, and Fire Sciences	1	1	
Idaho Fire Institute for Research and Education	0	4	
Natural Resources and Society	2	2	
Plant Sciences	0	15	
Policy Analysis Group	2	0	
Rangeland Center	1	0	
<u>College of Science</u>	0	0	
Earth and Spatial Sciences	0	4	
Mathematics and Statistical Science	0	3	
Institute for Health in the Human Ecosystem	0	4	

Initiative for Bioinformatics and Evolutionary Studies	0	1	
Institute for Modeling Collaboration and Innovation	0	5	
James A. and Louise McClure Center for Public Policy Research	5	1	
Idaho Experimental Partnership to Stimulate Competitive Research	0	4	
University of Idaho	9	0	
Total	200	110	For the RI team's first reporting cycle - Fall '24 - this total also included research outputs submitted during VERSO's soft launch, so the "Fall '24" column actually spans more than 1 semester.

- ~~% of profiles created for new faculty and non-faculty researchers.~~
 - ~~New faculty: 100%~~
 - ~~Non-faculty researchers: unknown, but a significant underestimate.~~
- ~~Number of communications received from faculty, including negative communications regarding data accuracy.~~
 - ~~Total (excluding emails sent to addresses other than lib-verso@uidaho.edu): 10~~
 - ~~Total negative: 6~~
- ~~Amount and character of suggestions received from liaison librarian about part of VERSO relevant to their subject areas.~~
 - ~~Biographical info corrections: 153~~
 - ~~Output metadata corrections: 20~~
- ~~Website engagement stats for system overall~~
 - **Note: data begins Aug 16**
 - ~~Total users: 6140~~
 - ~~Total views: 47686~~
- ~~Number of IR documents uploaded by department~~
 - ~~Bulk imports:~~

- ~~CALS Extension: 533~~
- ~~McClure Center for Public Policy: 130~~
- ~~Researcher/User deposits (excluding those made by Seth, Aarika, Leesa, and Norm without faculty input):~~
 - ~~Center for Digital Inquiry and Learning, 8~~
 - ~~College of Art and Architecture, 1~~
 - ~~College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences, 1~~
 - ~~College of Graduate Studies, 1~~
 - ~~College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences, 1~~
 - ~~College of Natural Resources, 1~~
 - ~~Curriculum and Instruction, 7~~
 - ~~Electrical and Computer Engineering, 1~~
 - ~~English, 1~~
 - ~~Entomology, Plant Pathology, and Nematology, 3~~
 - ~~Forest, Rangeland, and Fire Sciences, 1~~
 - ~~History, 6~~
 - ~~James A. and Louise McClure Center for Public Policy Research, 5~~
 - ~~Leadership and Counseling, 102~~
 - ~~Natural Resources and Society, 2~~
 - ~~Policy Analysis Group, 2~~
 - ~~Rangeland Center, 1~~
 - ~~Theatre Arts, 1~~
 - ~~UI Extension, Payette County, 9~~
 - ~~University of Idaho, 9~~
 - ~~University of Idaho Library, 37~~
 - ~~**Total: 200**~~

Membership:

- Rami Attebury
- Devin Becker
- ~~Aarika Dobbins~~
- Rebecca Hastings
- Jeremy Kenyon
- Abby Kirkham
- Norman Lee (Lead)
- Leesa Love
- Seth Thompson
- Andrew Weymouth
- Lex Van Horn

Reporting to:

- Associate Dean, Research & Instruction

