REQUIREMENT FOR A RESEARCH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (RIMS) FOR RESEARCH SCHOLARS

Prof. M. Doraswamy, Professor (DLIS) & Vice Chancellor (i/c),
Dravidian University, Kuppam

Mr. Shameer K K, Research Scholar (DLIS), Dravidian University. &
Assistant Librarian, IIT Tirupati.

Prof. B. R. Doraswamy Naick, Professor (DLIS) & Head Librarian,
UCoE, JNTU Kakinada

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Research Information Management Systems(RIMS)
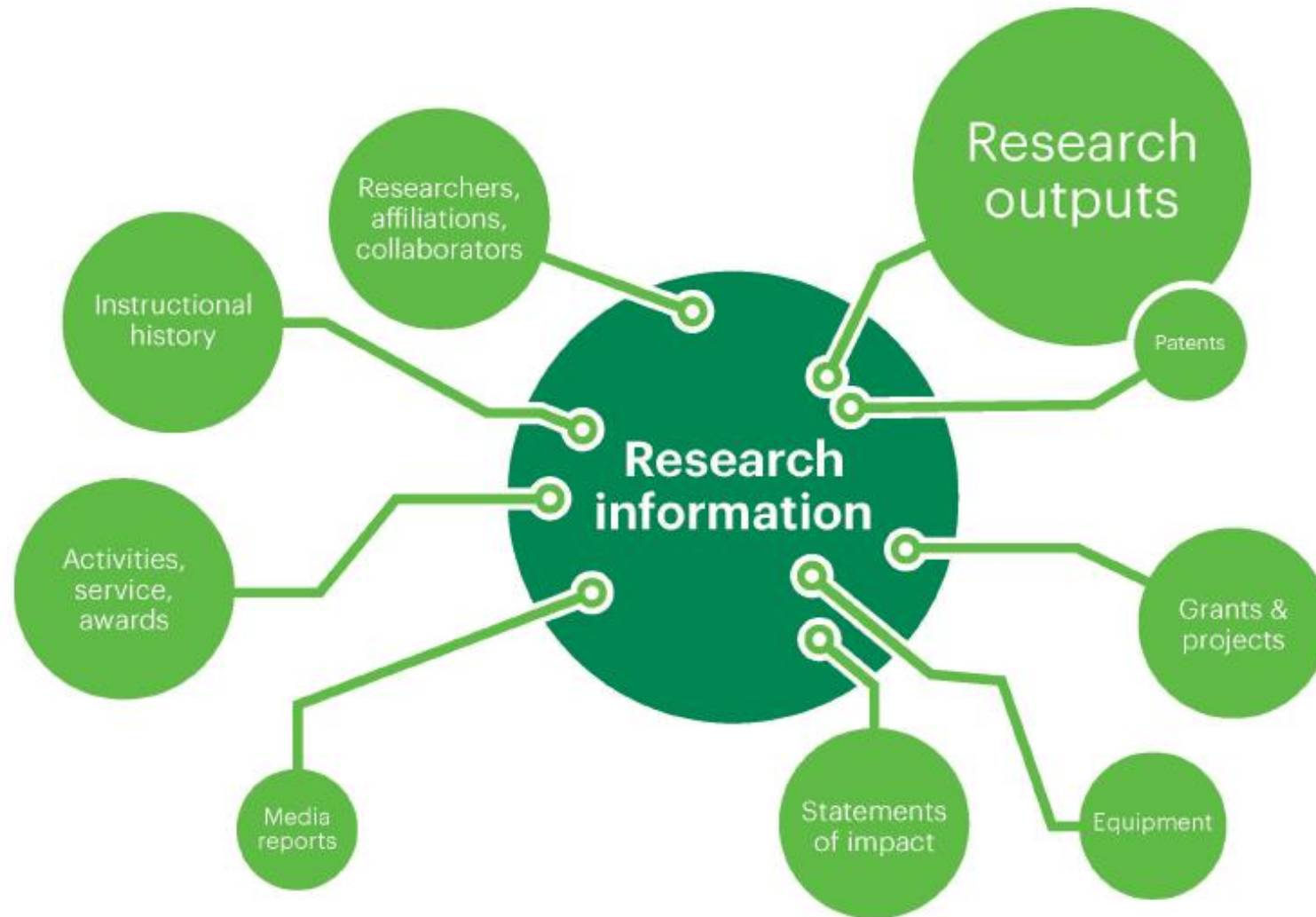
- **Research Information Management (RIM):**

  - "The aggregation, curation, and utilization of information about research and is emerging as an area of increasing interest and relevance in many university libraries".[1]

- **Research Information Management Systems (RIMS):**

  - "Collect and store metadata on research activities and outputs such as researchers and their affiliations; publications, datasets, and patents; grants and projects; academic service and honours; media reports; and statements of impact"[1]

  - Other terms used include "Research Information System (RIS), Research Networking System (RNS), Research Profiling System (RPS) or Faculty Activity Reporting (FAR)."[2]

  - It is "any informational tool dedicated to provide access to and disseminate research information"[3]

1 Bryant et al, 2017; | 2 Schöpfel, Azeroual, & Jungbauer-Gans, 2020; | 3 Ribeiro, Castro, & Mennielli, 2016

RIM Metadata

Bryant, Rebecca, Anna Clements, Carol Feltes, David Groenewegen, Simon Huggard, Holly Mercer, Roxanne Missingham, Maliaca Oxnam, Anne Rauh and John Wright. 2017. Research Information Management: Defining RIM and the Library's Role. Dublin, OH: OCLC Research. *https://doi.org/10.25333/C3NK88.*

Research Information Management Systems(RIMS)

Important Functions of RIMS[1]

- Registry of institutional research outputs

- External (e.g., National) research assessment

- Annual academic activity reporting workflows

- Reuse (in CVs, bio sketches, other web pages)

- Compliance and open access to research datasets

- Awards/grants management workflows

- Identifying collaborators or expertise

- Publicly available researcher profiles

- Reporting societal impact

- Internal reporting

- Reporting scholarly impact

- Compliance and open access to publications

1 Bryant et al (2018)

Persistent Identifiers (PIDs)

- It is a long-lasting reference to a digital resource (an author, organisation, research entity, digital document, image, file, or other similar objects).

What was the purpose of the study?

▪ To assess awareness amongst research scholars across disciplines about Research Information Management (RIM).

▪ To identify use amongst researchers across disciplines about the RIMS, especially the Indian initiatives such as IRINS and SheRNI.

▪ To assess the need for having a researcher profile in RIMS, like IRINS or SheRNI, across disciplines.

▪ To determine awareness amongst researchers regarding Persistent Identifiers (PIDs) across disciplines.

How we conducted the study?

- Population: PhD. Scholars from select IITs based on their NIRF Ranking (Top and bottom-ranked from each of the 3 generations of IITs)

    ☐ IIT Madras, IIT Guwahati, IIT Hyderabad, IIT Bhubaneswar, IIT Tirupati, and IIT Bhilai

- Total sample size of 396 researchers (228 from Engineering, 76 from Science, and 92 from AHSS Departments)

- Employed a structured questionnaire for data collection.

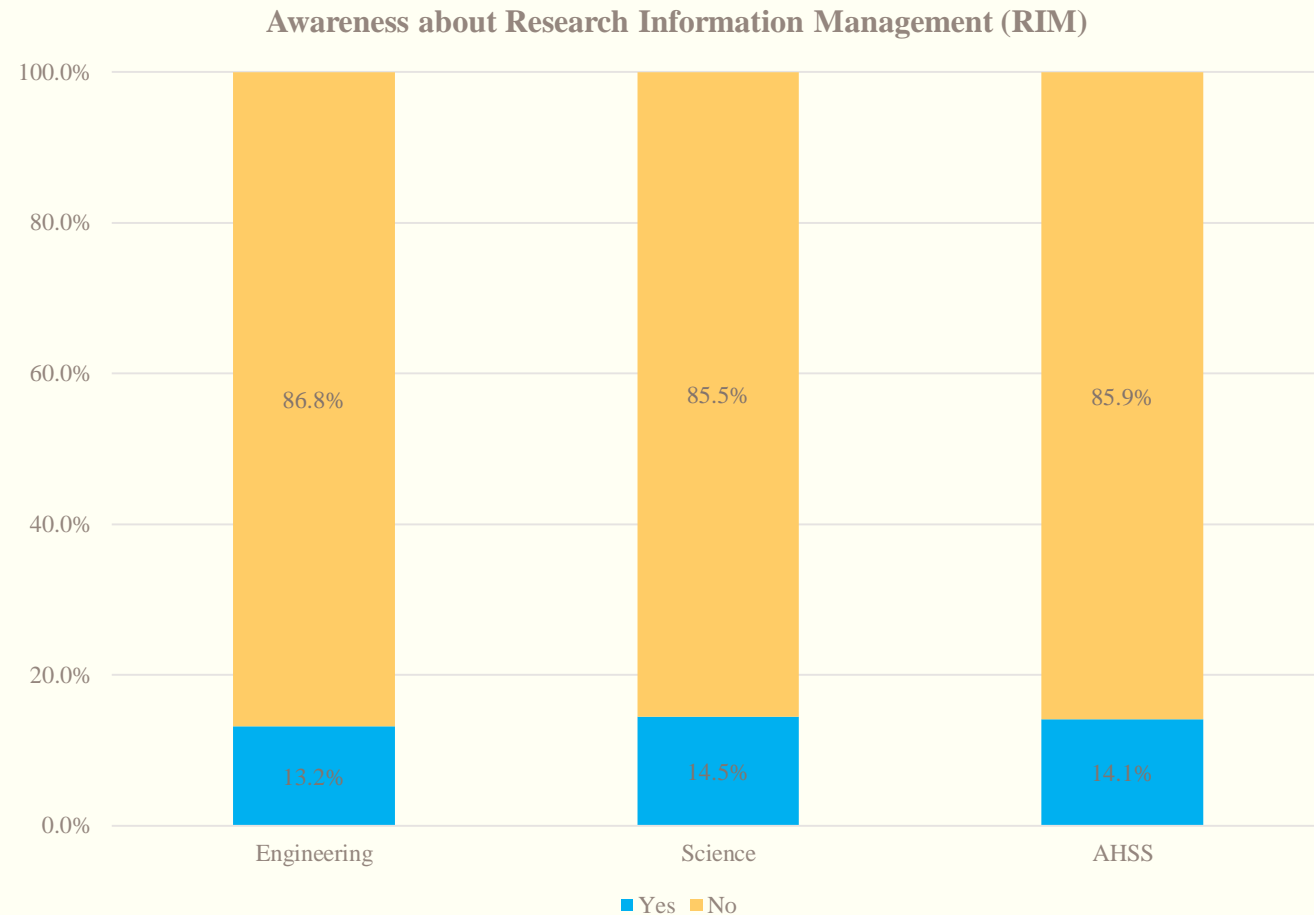- Data collected between April and August 2025.

Findings

- Based on the analysis of data collected from the research scholars, the following findings were derived.

  ☐ Awareness of RIM

  ☐ Frequency of RIMS use

  ☐ Importance of researcher profiles to respondents

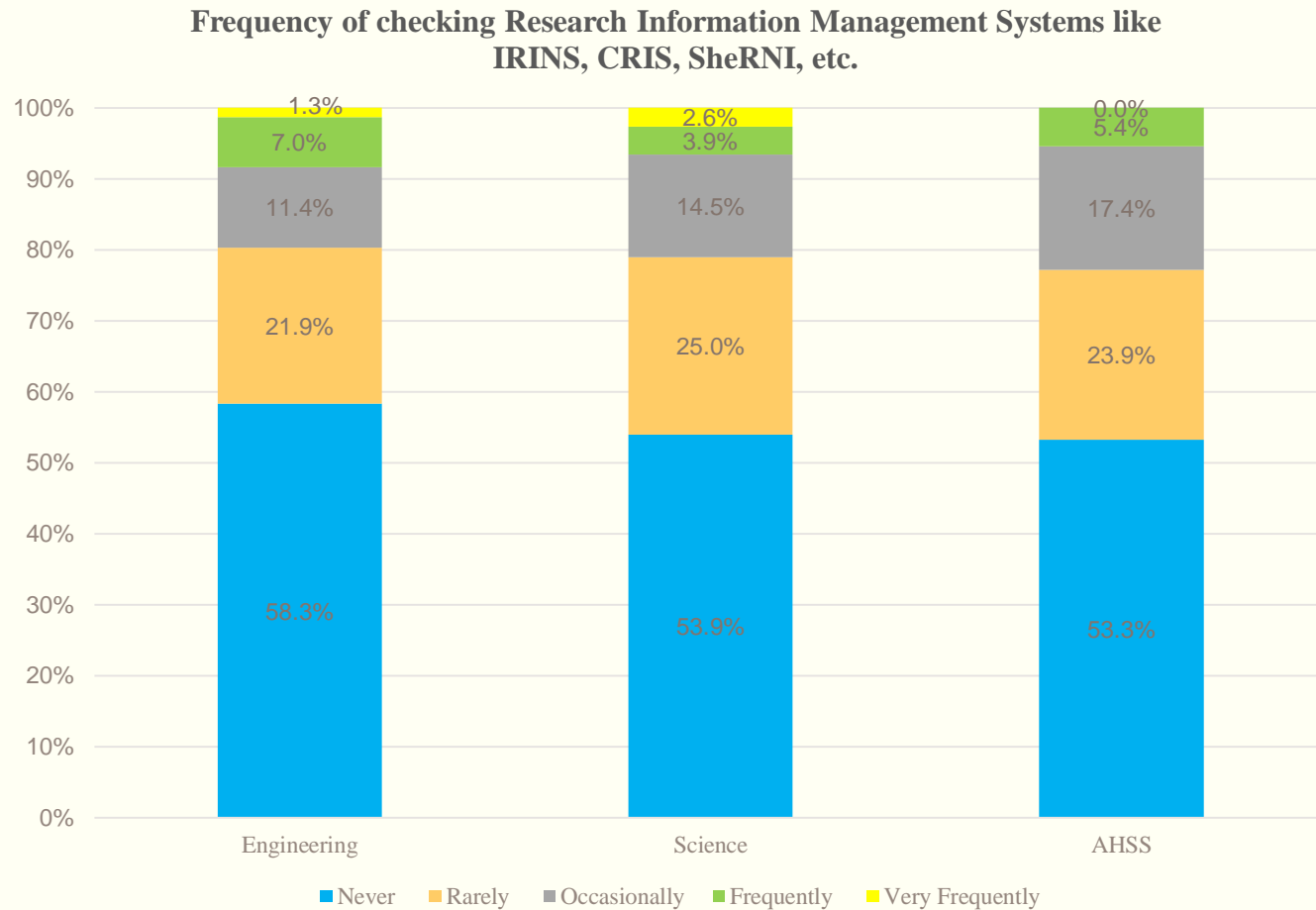 ☐ Awareness of Persistent Identifiers (PIDs) for Authors

Awareness of RIM (n=396)

- Majority of the researchers are unaware of RIM

- Research scholars from Science were found to be slightly more aware (14.5 %) than AHSS (14.1%), and Engineering (13.2%).

- Unawareness about RIM amongst the researchers is concerning, and institutions and libraries need to develop awareness programmes for them.

Awareness about Research Information Management (RIM)

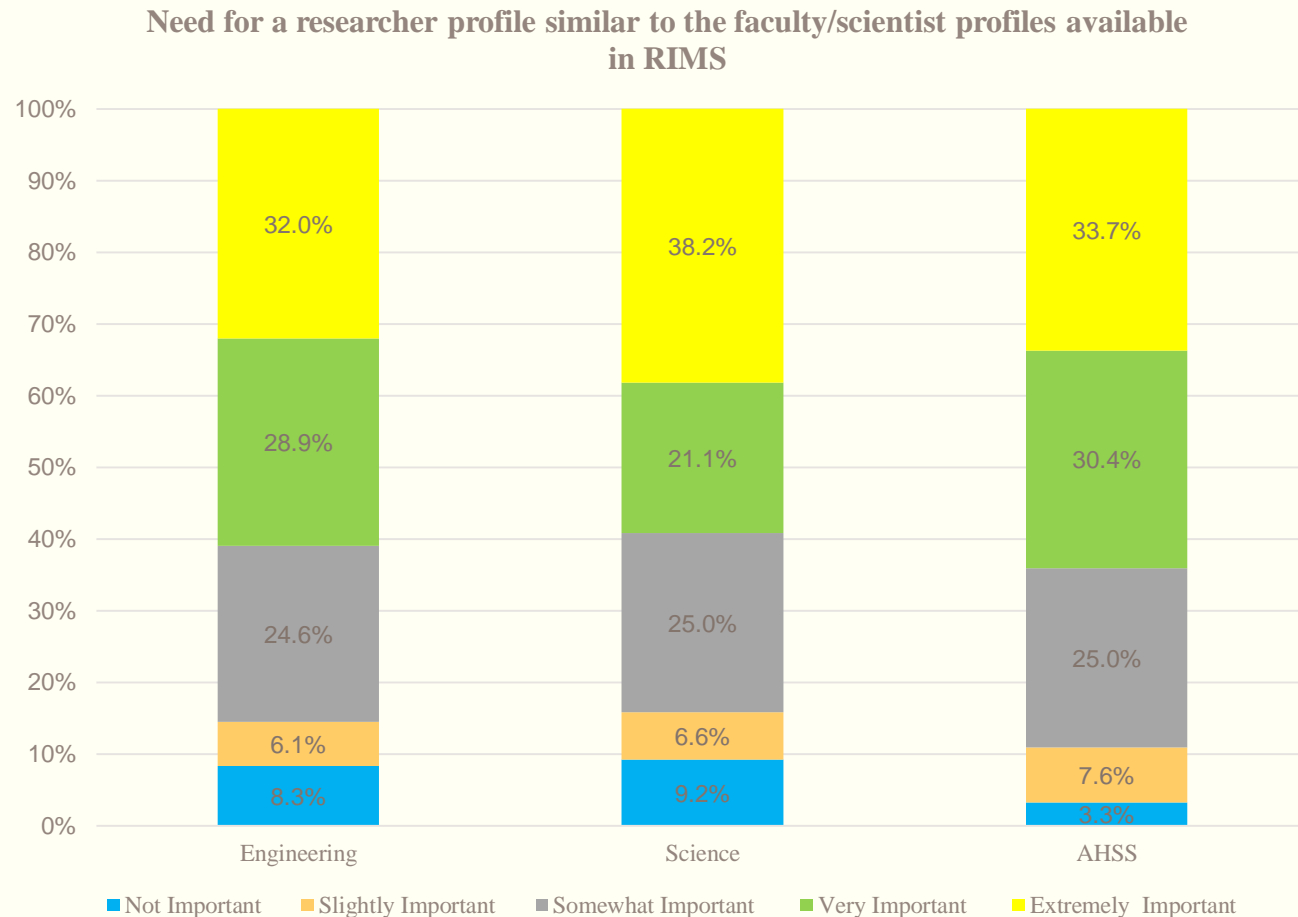|	Engineering	Science	AHSS
No	86.8%	85.5%	85.9%
Yes	13.2%	14.5%	14.1%

Yes ■ No ■

Frequency of RIMS use (n=396)

- Majority of the researchers were found to have never checked any RIMS.

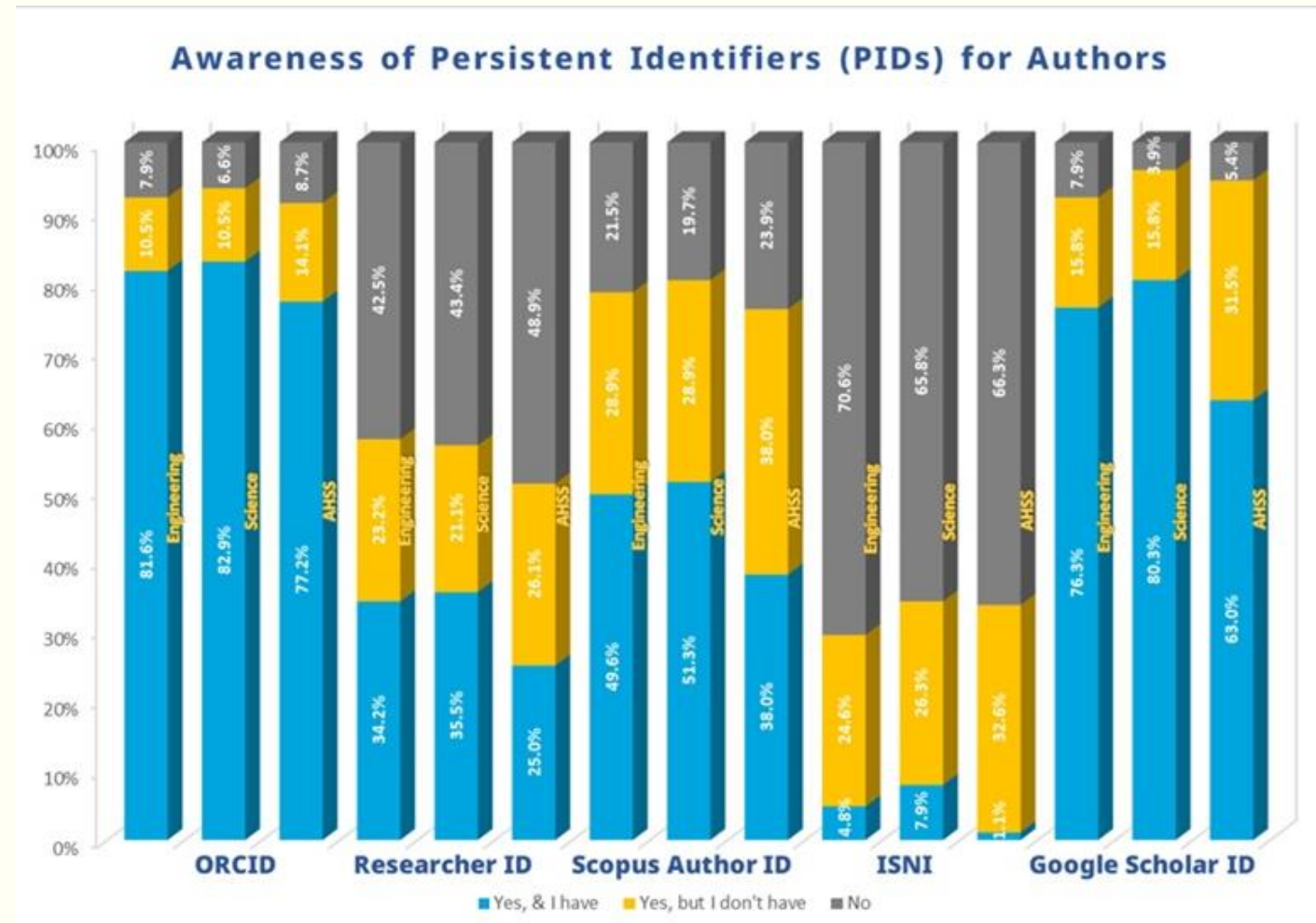- 58.3% of Engineering respondents, 53.9% of Science, and 53.3% of AHSS respondents have never checked any RIMS.

Frequency of checking Research Information Management Systems like IRINS, CRIS, SheRNI, etc.

Importance of researcher profiles to respondents (n=396)

▪ A significant majority of respondents agreed that the presence of researcher profiles on RIMS is of vital importance

▪ AHSS had a total of 64.1% attributing importance (extremely important and very important). From Engineering departments, 60.9%. In Science departments slightly lower numbers were recorded with 59.3%

Need for a researcher profile similar to the faculty/scientist profiles available in RIMS

	Engineering	Science	AHSS
Extremely Important	32.0%	38.2%	33.7%
Very Important	28.9%	21.1%	30.4%
Somewhat Important	24.6%	25.0%	25.0%
Slightly Important	6.1%	6.6%	7.6%
Not Important	8.3%	9.2%	3.3%

Legend: ■ Not Important ■ Slightly Important ■ Somewhat Important ■ Very Important ■ Extremely Important

Awareness of Persistent Identifiers (PIDs) for Authors (n=396)

- The majority of the researchers were aware and had ORCID and Google Scholar profiles.

- 82.9% research scholars from Science, 81.6% from Engineering, and 77.2% AHSS have ORCID

- 80.3% respondents from Science, 76.3% from Engineering, and 63% from AHSS have a Google Scholar ID

Awareness of Persistent Identifiers (PIDs) for Authors

Awareness of Persistent Identifiers (PIDs) for Authors (n=396)

- 51.3% Science researchers, followed by Engineering (49.6%), and AHSS at the last with only 38% had SCOPUS IDs

- The use of ResearcherID was in the minority across all disciplines. Only 35.5% from Science, 34.2 % from Engineering, and a much lower 25% of AHSS researchers have a ResearcherID.

- The majority of the researchers are unaware of ISNI. 65.8% of Science, 70.6% of Engineering and 66.3% of AHSS researchers are unaware of the same.

- Awareness about the PIDs amongst Science research scholars is found to be comparatively higher than that of the other two disciplines (Engineering and AHSS)

Challenges to RIM

- Lack of awareness of RIM amongst staff

- Lack of interest amongst researchers

- Lack of resources to divert towards this effort

- 18.5 % of the scholars not having any of the PIDs is a challenge in RIM

- Creating awareness about RIMS amongst researchers will be a major task

- Short-term affiliation of researchers with the institute (3 to 6 years as per UGC)

- The gap in the affiliation if they couldn't manage to get a job or higher studies, or other research position, etc., immediately after their research

- The researchers do not usually have separate projects or project funding

Conclusion and Recommendations

▪ The need to raise awareness about Research Information Management Systems and their benefits for researchers is high

▪ A well-designed, comprehensive awareness program should be planned by academic libraries with support from INFLIBNET to promote awareness about IRINS amongst research scholars

▪ Librarians should harness their skill sets and take on the mantle of managing RIMS within their institutions

▪ Organising and structuring the entire research ecosystem, starting from research data, building up to managing research information at the institutional level, can give a significant amount of boost in the research performance of the institute as a whole

Conclusion and Recommendations

- When the author initially described the concept of RIMS, most of the researchers responded that they felt they should have a profile like the faculty/scientist profiles available in IRINS or SheRNI. Since INFLIBNET already has the system to manage Research Information, it would be easy to extend the same to researchers as well.

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THANK YOU

mdoraswamy@gmail.com   shameerfc@gmail.com   bdnaickjntu@jntucek.ac.in