



The University of Queensland Library and Publons – Revealing previously hidden contributions to world research

At The University of Queensland (UQ), the Library has teamed up with Publons to reveal a more complete picture of their researchers' engagement in the scholarly community. By providing a way for researchers to record their peer reviewing activity they are now able to showcase an important but previously unmeasured contribution to research – and they are leading the world in doing so.

"We are a world-leading business school, and the leading business school in the Asia Pacific. We want to take every opportunity for this to be publicly visible. Publons is one of those many new opportunities." - Sara Dolnicar, Research Dean of the UQ Business School

Background

Since it was founded in 1909, The University of Queensland (UQ) has made significant contributions to Queensland, Australia and the world. The University is one of Australia's leading teaching and research universities, ranked in the world's top 50 by the QS World University Rankings and Performance Ranking of Scientific Papers for World Universities, and well within the top 100 in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings, U.S. News Best Global Universities Rankings and the Academic Ranking of World Universities.

UQ is one of only three Australian members of the global Universitas 21, a founding member of the Group of Eight (Go8) universities, and a member of Universities Australia.

The University has one of the largest academic libraries in Australia. UQ Library provides information and library services at each of the University's campuses, as well as at major teaching hospitals in Brisbane and regionally.

For more information, see www.uq.edu.au

The role of the Library in showcasing UQ's research output

The University of Queensland's research repository UQ eSpace is the single authoritative source for the research outputs of its staff and students.

UQ eSpace serves to raise the visibility and accessibility of the University's research outputs and to build UQ's profile as a centre of research excellence. The Ranking Web of World Repositories ranks UQ eSpace among the top 20 worldwide, and second in Oceania.

Responsibility for managing and developing this vital research infrastructure sits within the Library's remit.

Mr Andrew Heath, Manager of UQ eSpace, and his colleagues in the Library's Scholarly Communication and Repository Services assist the University to track and report on its research output and impact, which is necessary to meet mandatory Government reporting requirements, such as Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA). They also help University leaders and individual researchers analyse research performance for a range of other purposes.

The Challenge: How to track and showcase the full impact of UQ's experts

Metrics such as publications and citation counts are a means of providing information about research quality, impact and significance and they are important for research assessments.

However, researchers contribute to their community in other ways that have not been captured or measured effectively in the past. For example, peer reviewing activity is evidence of a researcher's engagement within the scholarly community. Importantly, it provides validation that academic editors deem a researcher to be an expert in their field.

Peer reviewing activity was a major component of the activities of UQ researchers that was not being recorded in UQ eSpace, meaning it was not easy for the University to capture the full contribution its recognised experts were making to the research community.

At the same time as the University was deliberating this issue, funding bodies were starting to consider

The image shows a screenshot of the Publons website profile for Professor Neal M. Ashkanasy. The profile includes a header with the Publons logo, a search bar, and navigation links (BROWSE, ABOUT, SIGN IN, REGISTER). The main content area features a profile picture of Professor Ashkanasy, his name, and his affiliation: Professor - UQ Business School, The University of Queensland. Below this, there are tabs for 'PROFILE' and 'STATISTICS'. The 'BIO' section provides a detailed biography of Professor Ashkanasy, mentioning his 18-year career in water resources engineering, his PhD in social/organizational psychology from the University of Queensland, and his current research in leadership, organizational culture, ethics, and emotions in organizations. It also lists his roles as Associate Editor for Emotion Review and Series Co-Editor of Research on Emotion in Organizations, and his service as Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Organizational Behavior and Associate Editor for the Academy of Management Review and Academy of Management Learning and Education. The 'EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBERSHIPS' section lists several journals he has served on, including Management and Organization Review, Journal of Applied Psychology, Journal of Management, Journal of Management Education, Leadership Quarterly, and Academy of Management Journal. The profile also displays various awards and merits, such as 2073 Reviewer Merit and 1 Editor Merit, and provides links to his Publons profile and ORCID ID.

Image 1: Publons profile of Professor Neal M. Ashkanasy, UQ Business School, The University of Queensland.

outputs other than published articles in assessments of researchers and institutions. The Australian Research Council's Excellence in Research for Australia already asks for data on "non-traditional research outputs".

The University's challenge was to track and showcase the engagement and broader impact of UQ's experts by looking for ways to measure previously unrecorded research activity – such as peer reviewing activity. In doing so, it could build a more complete picture of the institution's contribution to world research.

The Library was well placed to comprehend the challenge and seek solutions.

Publons as the solution

Andrew and his UQ eSpace team set out to find ways of building a more complete picture of the University's contributions to research.

Their journey brought them to Publons, the world's premium service for tracking and verifying the contributions of expert peer reviewers and editors.

In late 2015, the Library partnered with Publons to develop a comprehensive and independently verified picture of UQ researchers' peer reviewing activity.

"There were already a number of UQ researchers independently using Publons to track their own peer review activity, so it was an easy decision to approach them to help build a picture of the institutions peer review work."

The setup was simple: Publons' partnership with ORCID made for a simple onboarding process for UQ researchers, and the Publons API enabled the Library to download review data into UQ eSpace on a nightly basis.

Results

By July 2016 – just six months into the partnership – the University had become a world leader in showcasing the peer reviewing activity of its experts (see image below). More than two hundred UQ researchers have tracked and verified in excess of 3,700 of their reviews.

With Publons, the University is getting a valuable insight into a formerly hidden aspect of its researchers' workloads.

There is value to UQ researchers in being able to demonstrate the full picture of their academic activity beyond publications and traditional research outputs.

With Publons, a researcher can provide evidence of their expertise in a particular field as attested through their involvement with influential journals. By building a more complete research profile they can also place themselves in a stronger position to secure that next crucial promotion or funding grant.

Early career researchers benefit from seeing and understanding the activity of their peers and teachers within the scholarly community, especially as they seek to establish mentors and research networks.

UQ researchers are thrilled that more of their efforts are being recognised:

#	INSTITUTION	REVIEWERS ▼	REVIEWS	MERIT	OPENNESS	TOP PUBLONS REVIEWER
1	 The University of Queensland	217	4024	12736	1.9	 Neal M. Ashkanasy
2	 University College London	154	2489	8117	6.1	 Axel Petzold
3	 University of Melbourne	137	1728	5190	1.5	 Nathan Lawrentschuk
4	 University of Oxford	130	1418	4508	7	 Arseniy E. Yuzhalin
5	 Harvard University	123	987	3171	12.8	 Evan Kleiman
6	 Sapienza University of Rome	123	2165	6339	1.2	 Marco Rossi
7	 University of Cambridge	120	1585	4845	4.8	 John Hancock
8	 Monash University	116	1267	3699	2	 Graham Oppy



“As I do a lot of reviews I am quite a fan of Publons and I am pleased to see it being integrated into more UQ systems. The value for me is that when I claim that I provide service to the discipline by doing paper reviews I am now able to substantiate this claim with evidence. This is useful for annual performance appraisals and promotion committees”

- Associate Professor, UQ

What next?

Following the success of the trial with Publons, the UQ Library is investigating ways of including the data in other UQ systems.

University Librarian, Mr Robert Gerrity, has said in response to the trial that that “the Library is working with Publons to determine other ways it might help to show the world the full extent of UQ researchers’ outputs and expertise.”

“A good way to record the review work I did.... I fully support the idea of made it available to other UQ systems as the review I completed are engagement/contribution to the field and these outcomes should be counted towards my workload.”

– Lecturer, UQ

“I would definitely support its integration with other UQ systems as it provides a record of relevant academic contribution (and time spent therein).”

–Associate Professor, UQ

Learn more

To learn more about showcasing your institution’s peer review efforts and expertise, check out Publons: publons.com/partner/info/ or email: tom@publons.com

To learn more about the University of Queensland visit: www.uq.edu.au