

Symplectic and Imperial College London

Symplectic has worked with Imperial College for more than five years, implementing the following systems:

- Academic Time Survey System (for the administration of Full Economic Costing).
- Content Management System (for the Faculty of Medicine).
- Invigilator Student Management System (for the department of Physics).
- Publications Management System (used by the whole College for RAE 2008).
- An additional Professional Activities module for the Publications Management System.

Publications Management System

The Symplectic Publications Management System is a powerful tool giving academics and administrators continuous visibility of Imperial College's research publications.

The online interface is exceptionally clear and intuitive, ensuring high user take-up:

- 92% of researchers across all faculties are using the system regularly.

Before:

- Neither academics nor Research Managers had access to up-to-date publications data for themselves or colleagues.
- Lists were created for specific needs, such as grant applications, performance reviews and research assessments.
- Lack of awareness of related work within the institution when not in the same group or department.
- Intensive period of work to create accurate snapshot of data before RAE.
- Difficult to understand departmental/individual research outputs in context.

Symplectic Publications Management System saves time for academics at Imperial College:

- On average, users need to enter the details of fewer than 10% of their publications manually.

Additional features include the ability to nominate papers for RAE assessment and grant applications.

Symplectic has recently upgraded Imperial's system to the latest version of the Publications Management System, which includes DSpace repository integration. The next upgrade will introduce further enhancements to comply with the Research Excellence Framework (REF).

Key benefits of using Symplectic Publications:

- Uses well-known online databases (PubMed and Web of Knowledge) to gather and update over 90% of journal publication information.
- Has been fully integrated with Imperial's RAE system, websites, digital repository and grant management systems.
- Statistical reports help Imperial understand its research strengths and plan for the future.
- The system has provided an invaluable tool for performance reviews.
- Research Managers have full visibility of data within the system.

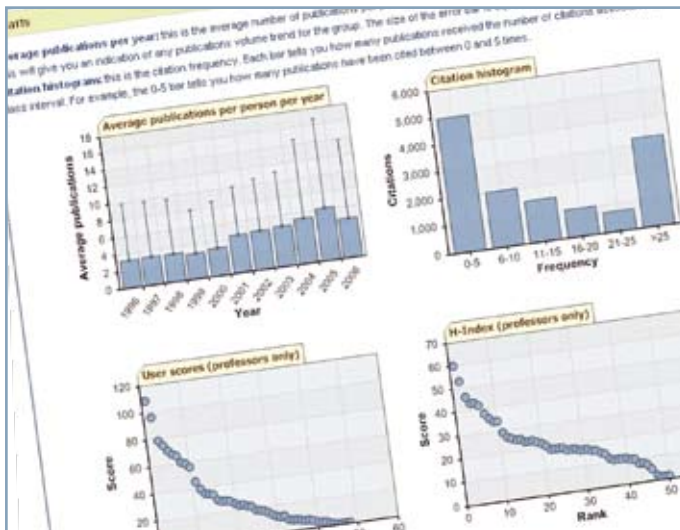
After:

- Up-to-date data is available on individuals or groups at the touch of a button.
- Academics enter their publications into just one system.
- On average, users need to enter fewer than 10% of their publications manually.
- Searches within the institution are simple, and feeds to the DSpace repository and taxonomy tools raise internal and external visibility of research.
- Data is continuously verified as part of an ongoing exercise.
- Data is now used far beyond RAE requirements to give ongoing statistical analysis.

Benefits to different users within Imperial College

Research Manager:

- Can gain instant access to a range of institutional statistics for strategic planning.
- Through the administration interface, can remotely assist academics with their updates and control access to the system, adding and removing users.



Head of Department:

- Statistical reports are instantly available at any time.
- Can be used to assess the performance of the department and individual academics.

Praise for Symplectic from Imperial academics and administrators:

"Publications is easy to use and it really does save me time - there are no more publications surveys to fill in. I now update my academic web presence, grant proposals and RAE nominations in a single place."

Professor Sir Peter Knight FRS

**Principal of the Faculty of Natural Sciences,
Imperial College London**

Academic:

- Automatically finds and updates 90% of their journal publication listings.
- College only has to be informed once of the details of each publication.



Librarian:

- Data is automatically fed into Imperial's DSpace institutional digital repository.
- Librarians can verify rights to republish before content is made public.
- Bibliographic records are verified and cleansed using the data integrity interface.



"Symplectic's Publications Management System has revolutionised publications management for our academics and administrators alike."

Dr John Green

**Chief Coordinating Officer, Imperial College
London**