ENHANCING THE DISCOVERY OF DIGITAL COLLECTIONS:
A Linked Data Approach to Supporting Digital Content in Libraries

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Modernizing Authority Control

Has authority control gone the way of the card catalogue?

Certainly not! In fact, applying authority control principles are even more important in today's digital world.

The Tangled Web

Researchers communicate their studies using a wide range of digital content types and output modes:

- Open access & subscription journals
- Published books
- Recorded lectures & conference proceedings
- Institutional websites
- Citation & reference managers
- Social media

Many of these output modes support various researcher identifier schemes, which can succeed in muddying, rather than clarifying identities and access to digital content.
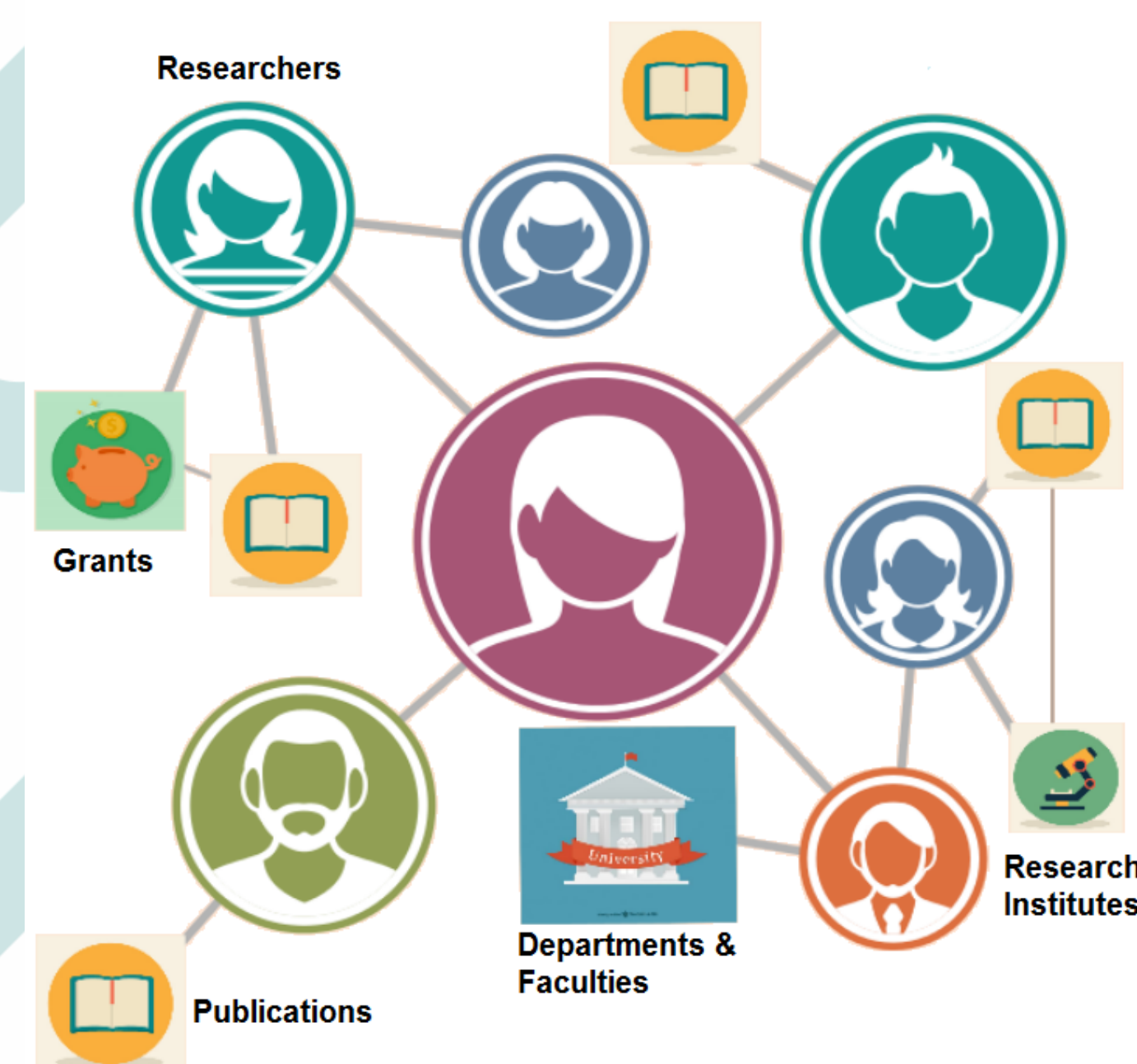
Making Connections Marking Distinctions

Using community-sourced metadata strategies, at the Carleton University Library we are working on enhancing user access to digital research content of all formats within our institutional repository.

With traditional authority control concepts and supporting linked data Unique Resource Identifiers (URIs), libraries like ours have the power to seamlessly connect a multitude of digital content types, researcher identities, and their affiliations.

Link Academic Communities & Disambiguate Digital Identities

With linked data using URIs, we can simultaneously disambiguate identities, connect related digital resources, and improve user discovery of research publications.

Develop & Enhance Library Services

✓ Valued-Added Benefits

✓ Allow users to find out more about researchers: who they are & what projects or organizations they're involved with.

✓ Improve user access to digital content of all types: connect authors with related faculties, departments, research institutes & more.

✓ Integrate established authority & identifier services like VIAF & ISNI

✓ Outreach services for faculty & researchers throughout publication process.

✓ Data & statistical support for institutional research offices.

✓ Publication reporting services to faculties and research chairs.
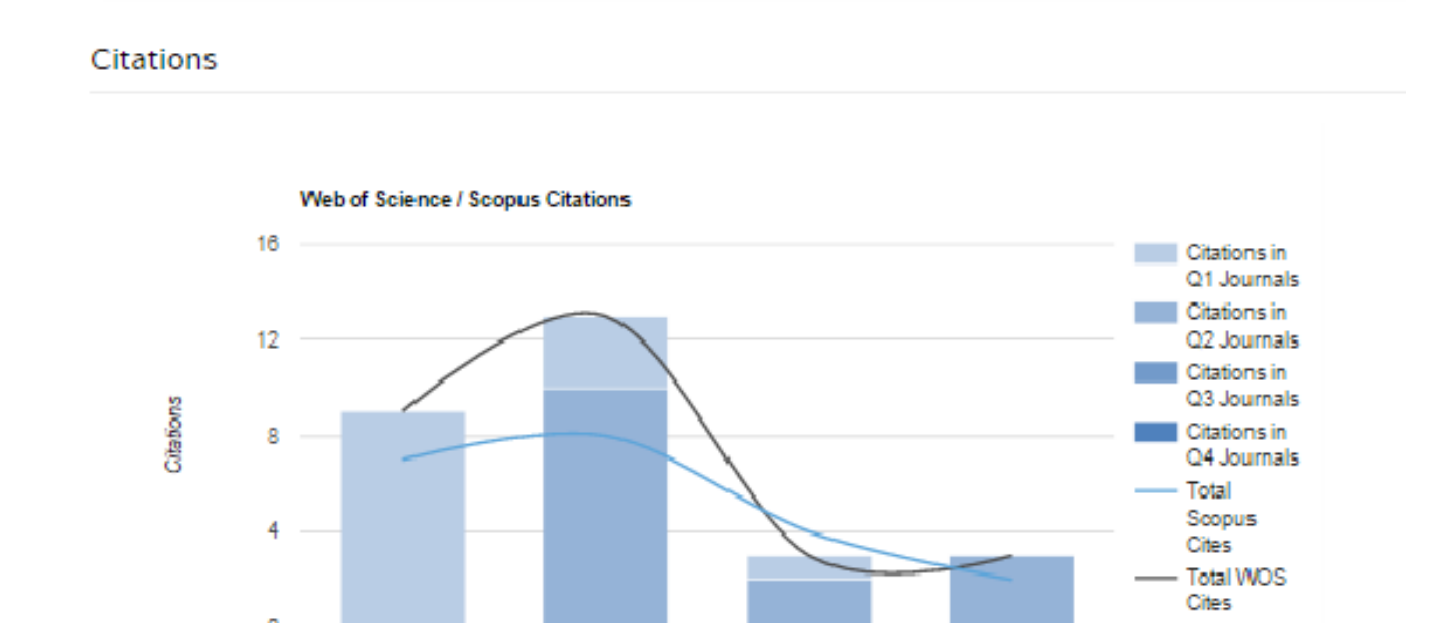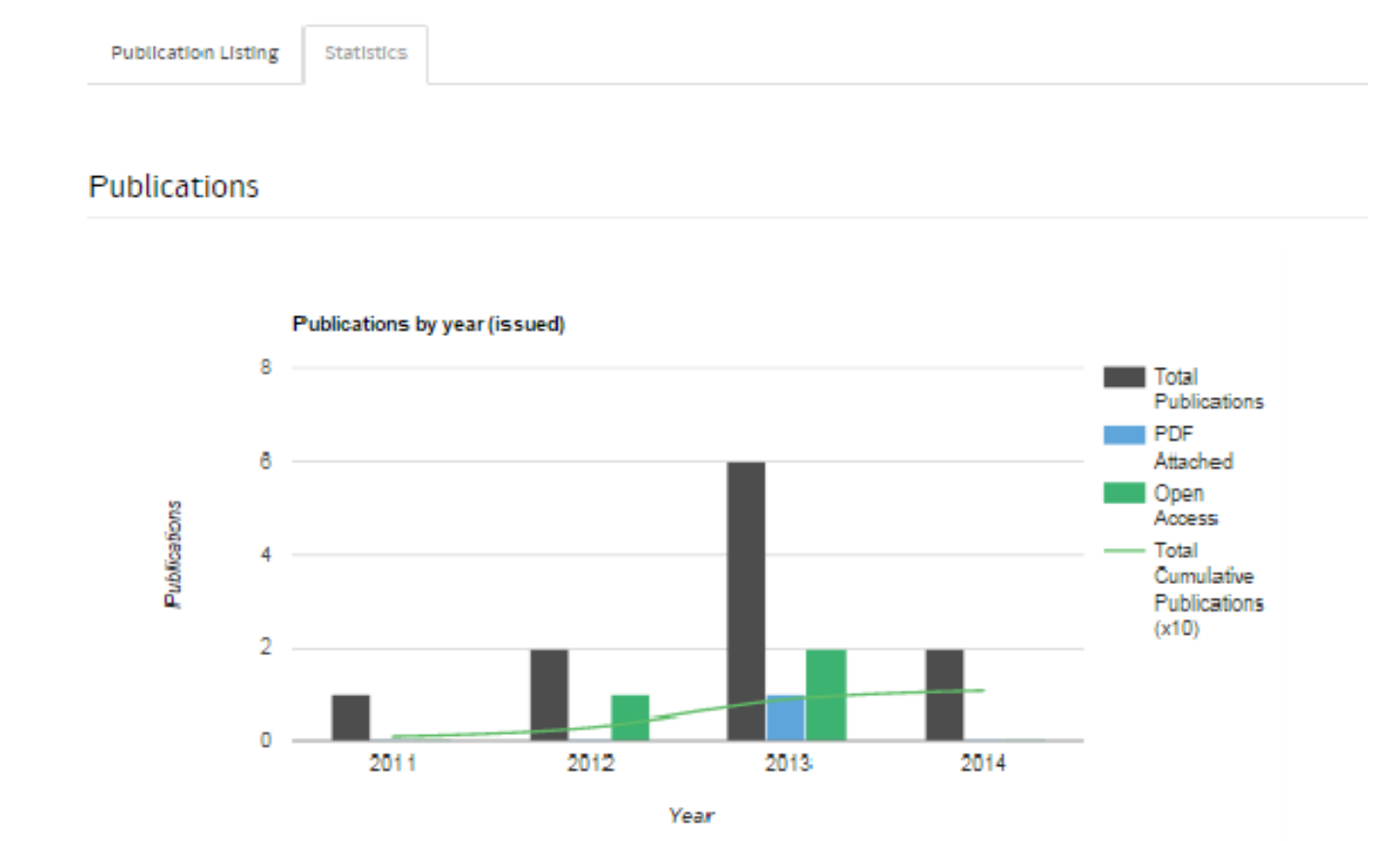
✓ Track grants and funding.

Another benefit? Collaboration in the library!

Systems Librarians, Cataloguing & Metadata Specialists, & Reference Librarians all play a role in the development and future-service of digital collection disambiguation at Carleton.

Manage Author Output & Track Publication Statistics

Linked data name authority applications can also collect citation and publication statistics. By connecting individuals & their digital publications, the Library can assist in publication & citation tracking.

"Coordinated with researcher ID systems, authority files and the catalogs with which they are associated represent a rich resource of curated data that can support data linking and semantic web applications. These connections can improve sharing of research outputs, collaboration and new research discoveries."

(OCLC Research, 2014)

Please see the handout for more reading on this rapidly developing topic!

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