



## **Support the Research & Scholarship Category**

Your campus has been identified by a National Science Foundation-funded project as not having adequate support to provide seamless access to their resources for your scientists and researchers. Please read the details below, which provide a summary of the problem and a simple solution offered by InCommon and action for your campus to take.

### **Background**

In effect, the InCommon Federation mainly facilitates business-to-business (B2B) interactions between campuses and vendors because of the way identity services and related policy decisions are managed in organizations. In recent years, virtual organizations and multi-campus collaborative projects have grown in number and importance, and these do not fit the B2B approach.

These services might be called “business-to-individual” because they are typically not defined contractually with the college or university and the attribute release policies may not have anticipated such relationships. When campus services do not provide for the release of the necessary attributes to these virtual organizations, it hinders or prevents access to collaboration resources by scientists, scholars and their graduate students.

### **Solution**

InCommon adopted the Research & Scholarship (R&S) Service Category to address these access control pain points. The gist is that campus identity providers release five attributes (name, email, two identifiers and affiliation) about individuals to all services that have been vetted by InCommon or another recognized federation operator as qualifying for R&S.

Releasing the attribute bundle to the entire R&S Category of services enables your campus research and scholarship community to have automatic access to new services as they qualify using their familiar campus credentials.

As of April 20, 2015, the R&S Service Category includes 34 services and projects that support research and scholarship collaboration, including large-scale NSF-funded research projects like LIGO and GENI, cyberinfrastructure support services like CILogon, and collaboration tools such as wikis and file sharing

applications. A complete list of R&S service providers and identity providers is here: <https://incommon.org/federation/info/all-entity-categories.html>

## **A Word About the Nature of Scientists and Researchers**

It goes without saying that scientists and researchers are extremely important to higher education. They bring research grants and prestige to our campuses. Their nature, and human nature, is to take the easiest route to access services. If their campus credentials won't work, they will take one of several less-desirable approaches, including having a colleague email (in plain text) a password, or set up a proxy gateway and log in with the wrong credential.

These are smart and motivated people. If the service becomes frustrated enough, they will enable social identities and that will work, but is not desirable. The bottom line is that their motivation is to get their work done, not to worry about IAM. Federated institutional identity is easy for them and trustworthy for us, as long as we make it seamless.