Research and Scholarship for SPs

Research & Scholarship for Service Providers

Is my service eligible for the Research & Scholarship (R&S) Category? The authoritative answer is in the Research & Scholarship (R&S) Category document. You can gauge a quick answer, though, by browsing the official list of R&S SPs. There you will find:

- cross-enterprise wikis (such as the Internet2 Spaces wiki)
- collaboration tools for students, faculty, staff, and researchers
- data sharing and management tools
- credential translation and management tools
- collaboration services for NSF-funded research projects
- collaboration services for international e-science communities
- learning platforms for research and education
- cloud computing and storage services for scientists
- network monitoring and analysis tools

If your service overlaps with the above list of Research & Scholarship services, or otherwise fits the criteria in Research & Scholarship (R&S) Category, we encourage you to apply for R&S. Here’s a sequence of steps that will get you there:

1. Review Requirements for R&S Service Providers, below.
2. Review the R&S Application Form
3. Read the authoritative Research & Scholarship Entity Category specification
4. Read the InCommon Participation Agreement, especially section 9 of that document, which deals with privacy
5. Review the Deployment Considerations for R&S document
6. Review your entity info page for consistency, clarity, and completeness
7. Talk to your Site Administrator about becoming a Delegated Administrator of your service metadata
8. Update your metadata (or have your metadata updated) as needed
9. Submit the R&S Application Form

If you have questions about R&S, contact InCommon Admin at admin@incommon.org

Deployment Considerations
Prospective R&S SPs should consider the deployment implications of R&S.

Requirements for R&S Service Providers

By definition, a Research & Scholarship service enhances the research and scholarship activities of some subset of the InCommon community. See the REFEDS specification of the Research & Scholarship Entity Category for a precise definition:

Candidates for the Research and Scholarship (R&S) Category are Service Providers that are operated for the purpose of supporting research and scholarship interaction, collaboration or management, at least in part.

R&S Service Providers must meet the following technical requirements:

- Service metadata must be submitted to InCommon and published in a human-readable format on the InCommon public web site.
- The Service Provider refreshes and verifies metadata at least daily.
- The Service Provider is a production SAML deployment that supports the SAML V2.0 HTTP-POST binding (one of numerous SAML V2.0 endpoints in metadata).
- The Service Provider provides both an MDUI DisplayName and an MDUI InformationURL (two User Interface Elements in metadata).
- The Service Provider provides both Technical and Administrative contacts in metadata.
- The Service Provider provides requested attributes in metadata. (It is highly RECOMMENDED that the requested attributes in metadata be a subset of the R&S attribute bundle, otherwise a bilateral agreement with each IdP may be required.)

InCommon-certified R&S Service Providers must also meet the following privacy requirements, as do all InCommon Service Providers:

- The Service Provider requests only those attributes required to operate the service.
- The Service Provider will not use attributes for purposes that fall outside of the service definition.

R&S Service Providers must resolve issues of non-compliance within a reasonable period of time from when they become aware of the issue. Failure to do so may result in revocation of their membership in the R&S category.