Research and Scholarship for IdPs

Research & Scholarship for Identity Providers

To have your IdP certified as supporting R&S:

1. Review the requirements for R&S SPs
2. Read the authoritative Research & Scholarship Entity Category specification
3. Review the Deployment Considerations for R&S document
4. Based on the previous steps, decide whether your institution is ready to support R&S
5. Review your entity info page for consistency, clarity, and completeness
6. Add an (optional) Error Handling URL to your metadata
7. Configure your IdP to release the R&S attribute bundle
8. Declare your ability to support R&S by submitting a short form.

Once this is done, your IdP will be added to the list, normally within one business day.

Browse a list of all current R&S SPs and IdPs

For R&S SP Owners

To encourage an IdP to support R&S, contact us at admin@incommon.org. We will reach out to the site admins for that IdP on your behalf.

IdP Deployment Requirements

An identity provider (IdP) supports the Research & Scholarship (R&S) Category if, for some subset of the IdP's user population, the IdP *releases a minimal subset of the R&S attribute bundle to R&S SPs without administrative involvement*, either automatically or subject to user consent. The following attributes constitute a minimal subset of the R&S attribute bundle:

- `eduPersonPrincipalName`
- `mail`
- `displayName` OR (`givenName` AND `sn`)

Review the R&S Entity Category specification

For the purposes of access control, a non-reassigned persistent identifier is required. If your deployment of `eduPersonPrincipalName` is non-reassigned, it will suffice. Otherwise you MUST release `eduPersonTargetedID` (which is non-reassigned by definition) in addition to `eduPersonPrincipalName`. In any case, release of both identifiers is RECOMMENDED.

Testing IdP Support for R&S

Once you've configured your IdP, you can test your configuration using this test page, a service provided by the GENI Experimenter Portal, an official R&S SP.

IdP Deployment Options

To support the Research and Scholarship Category, an IdP has multiple options:

1. Release the Essential Attribute Bundle to all SPs
2. Release the R&S attribute bundle to all R&S SPs
3. Release a minimal subset of the R&S attribute bundle to all R&S SPs
4. Release a dynamic subset of the R&S attribute bundle to each R&S SP on an SP-by-SP basis (depending on requested attributes in SP metadata)

Declare your support for R&S now!

Supporting R&S

Sites are strongly encouraged to configure their IdPs to support R&S, either by releasing the Research and Scholarship Attribute Bundle directly to R&S SPs or by releasing the Essential Attribute Bundle to all SPs.

The R&S category is the first of many such categories. Soon there will be multiple categories, for both SPs and IdPs, such that each category has its own entity attribute value. To support a given category, an additional software configuration similar to the R&S IdP configuration is required.

The use of entity attributes (as opposed to entity IDs) has a significantly reduced administrative burden at the IdP. As the number of categories increases, however, the number of configurations increases as well. It is natural to ask if there is an even higher level of abstraction that further simplifies the administration of attributes? The answer is yes, an IdP can release the Essential Attribute Bundle to **all SPs**, not just R&S SPs. Such a configuration can simultaneously satisfy the attribute requirements of multiple categories.

If you have further questions, please consult the Research and Scholarship FAQ.