What is Research and Scholarship category?

The **Research and Scholarship (R&S) entity category** defines a simple and scalable way to streamline federated research, scholarship, and collaboration access. Identity Providers (IdPs) agree to release basic, pre-defined person directory information to all service providers (SP) in the category.

Institutions who configure their IdP to support R&S realize the following benefits:

- **Convenience**: faculty and researchers instantly access participating services using campus credentials without administrator involvement
- **Collaboration on-demand**: when a research project adds a service to the category, collaboration across participating campuses is immediate
- **Vetted services**: InCommon or a sister federation reviews each service application for adherence to the category definition and requirements
- **Save time and resources**: once enabled, there is no additional involvement of IT staff to provision new R&S services

InCommon has partnered with its peer research and education federations worldwide to create the **REFEDS Research and Scholarship entity category**.

Hundreds of InCommon IdPs and SPs are already a part of the R&S category.

How does Research and Scholarship work?

**Research and Scholarship for Service Providers**

For an SP, having the R&S entity attribute means "I meet the qualifying criteria to be part of the R&S category." The InCommon Federation operator reviews SP applications for R&S and assigns the entity attribute to qualified SPs.

Qualified SPs automatically receive the **R&S person attribute bundle** from all R&S-supporting IdPs in the federation. This process significantly reduces integration overhead for an SP operator by not having to individually negotiate information release with each institution.

**Research and Scholarship for Identity Providers**

For an IdP, the R&S entity attribute means "I support R&S." Specifically, the IdP agrees to release basic person information to all qualifying R&S SPs. It does so by making a one-time addition to its default attribute release policy to release R&S attribute bundle to all R&S SPs.

Once configured, an InCommon participating institution declares support for R&S by **clicking a box in the Federation Manager portal**.

This one-time configuration provides faculty and researchers instant federated single sign-on access to R&S services without further administrator involvement. When future scholarly projects qualify for the R&S category, collaboration across participating campuses becomes immediate and seamless.

Joining Research and Scholarship category
To join the R&S category, see:

**For Identity Provider**
Identity Provider - Support Research and Scholarship

**For Service Provider**
Service Provider - Apply for Research and Scholarship category

**Further reading**
- Tagging an entity with Research and Scholarship entity attribute
- REFEDS Research and Scholarship category specification
- Research and Scholarship FAQ
- Research and Scholarship Deployment Considerations
- Identity provider - support Research and Scholarship
- Service provider - apply for Research and Scholarship category
- InCommon-Only Research and Scholarship category (deprecated)