The Pure development roadmap – what’s in the pipeline for 2023?

Pure’s robust tools and rich, connected data help you track research, collaborate beyond borders, maximize funding opportunities, promote open science activities, and demonstrate your impact to the world.

Today, more than 350 research institutions and organizations globally use Pure to showcase the brilliance of their 700,000+ researchers and map, monitor and report on their various outputs.

But with the research landscape rapidly evolving, it’s essential to keep one eye fixed firmly on the future. For our Pure product development team, that means drawing on community feedback to design and deliver features and functionalities that continuously improve the support we provide.

Here we outline key improvements planned for 2023. As some of these are phased innovations, you will also find information on 2024 developments – a more detailed 2024 roadmap will follow later this year.

- Discover the innovations we’ve introduced in recent releases, including the addition of new data sources, such as Digital Commons and researchmap, and enhanced integration with Web of Science. In addition, improvements to the reporting functionality and the portal make it easier to transform Pure’s rich data into compelling research stories.
- Curious to see how Pure can help your institution? Our case studies highlight just some of the ways our clients leverage Pure.

The Pure 2023 roadmap

Our Pure product developments are designed to address four core user activities:

Research management  Research funding  Expertise & collaboration  Impact & engagement

Along with the feedback we receive from the Pure user group community and the Elsevier support teams, these activities guide all our planning conversations and roadmap development. For ease of reference, we have used them to categorize the information on this page, although many of the planned developments will benefit multiple Pure services and features.

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Your brilliance, organized for action
Decision making requires access to real-time data you can trust, reporting tools that surface and connect critical information, and simple, streamlined workflows.

High-quality data is the beating heart of Pure and remains a key focus for the development team. In 2023, alongside large-scale improvements, we will work on “quality of life” enhancements; small changes you’ve requested to save time and improve your Pure experience. Plans include:

- The addition of new import sources to Pure and updates to existing integrations to deliver deeper insights. For example, we will:
  - Support the import of funding content from ORCID.
  - Allow bidirectional data transfers between Pure, Digital Commons and other Elsevier institutional products.
  - Introduce a new integration with the student-focused solution SkillsForge.
  - Introduce a new integration with Interfolio, making it easier to manage faculty activity reporting, along with review, promotion and tenure processes.
- Improvements to the quality of Pure’s master data. Alongside cleaning and refining existing data, we are drawing on machine learning to automate and improve matching, linking and deduplication of records for new data imports. This work began in 2022 and will continue into 2024.
- Development of a new, purpose-built platform integrated with relevant Elsevier and third-party solutions, including Pure. Benefits will include streamlined workflows and a greater variety of data in Pure, along with faster and more efficient data flow, system maintenance and updates. This work began in 2022 and will continue into 2024.
- Updates to Pure’s compliance with the European open science infrastructure OpenAIRE. We will encompass the complete suite of OpenAIRE data formats, including the Dublin Core Metadata Initiative and Cerif XML.
- Improved support for external affiliations. We will align how external affiliations are represented across all content types, and improve current data cleaning functionality; for example, we will offer access to OrgResolver, one of the world’s top academic affiliation entity resolution services.
- Easier portability of data; for example, we will increase the number of data formats that Pure supports and investigate connections to other platforms, e.g., ORCID and national CV databases.

Increased support for student projects. The integration with SkillsForge will enable the management of student-related activities and outputs in Pure, while other improvements in the pipeline will make it easier to report on and showcase student achievements.

We are working to enhance Pure’s award management module, making it easier to track and monitor the entire research grant life cycle and enrich grant applications with data-driven metrics and reliable content. This includes further integration with Elsevier’s Funding Institutional solution, so that you can easily find and apply for the most relevant grants. Importantly, the developments we have planned for 2023 will benefit other modules and features in Pure. This work includes:

- Improving award management processes. Work continues on the build and roll out of more flexible workflows, task assignment and approval processes. In 2023, we will draw on client feedback to improve our support for complex custom approval and workflow processes, and apply the new functionality to more content types. This work began in 2022 and will continue into 2024.
- Introducing a new ‘review’ capability to support peer review at both pre- and post-award stages. We will also make this capability available for ethical and contract management reviews, and explore its potential to support research assessments.
- Growing the use and visibility of milestones, so that you can track progress against crucial award management tasks at a glance. We are also exploring linking milestones to the approvals process, so that you can rest easy in the knowledge that all required steps have been addressed.
- Expanding support for the funding lifecycle. We will explore new ways to support the redistribution, tracking and awarding of internal funding, in association with Funding Institutional. This will include updates to the integration between Infonetica and Pure, making it easier to manage the ethics review process.
- Enhancing support for budget and expenditure management. This includes the introduction of versioning to help with the management of budgets and expenditure, and changes to the creation and approval processes for budgets during the pre-award phase.
- Improving the reporting and insights offered by the award management module.
To build your research enterprise, the ability to forge new partnerships is key, whether that’s between on-campus research teams or with external collaborators. In 2023, we will work to:

- Deepen the capabilities of Pure’s community module, empowering members of research communities to collaborate on the creation and management of applications, awards, projects and other content types. This will include:
  - Improving the speed, performance and volume of data transfer options. We will also optimize data matching, deduplication and merging, reducing the burden on community members.
  - Scaling up the range of community module services on offer; for example, supporting imports from non-Pure users, and supporting communities to openly share their data with individual institutions - an important step towards collaborative research administration.
  - Enhancing options to showcase your community and content on your Pure portal, and enabling reporting on shared outcomes.
  - Working with Pure communities to understand your future needs, from best practice guides and consultation services, to risk and mitigation strategies. Your feedback will guide Pure’s future development and service roadmaps.
- Complete the design and functionality refresh of the Pure portal. The portal not only showcases research and makes it discoverable, it also supports networking between researchers. We have already completed a raft of developments to highlight your institutional content and engage visitors. In 2023, we will:
  - Work with you to continue updating the search function and related filters. Our goal is to deliver more precise, accessible results that are easier to navigate and sort.
  - Enable you to look beyond metadata and expose valuable connections among people, publications, funding opportunities and ideas, providing visitors with more actionable insights.
  - Increase the customization options, so that you can tailor the portal’s layout and content to reflect your institution’s priorities and brand.
  - Roll out the new portal to the first institutions for testing and feedback.

When it comes to demonstrating impact, topics such as societal contributions, narrative CVs and assessment are playing an increasingly important role. As a result, the ability to highlight institutional achievements has never been so vital. For the Pure product development team, a key priority is to ensure that you can do just that, while delivering on impact opportunities that boost your organization’s reputation and advance open science. To support this, in 2023, we will:

- Enhance the ability to track and showcase impact, open science and knowledge exchange activities. Pure already supports a holistic approach to impact assessment and, in 2023, we will explore how we can improve on this further. Work will include:
  - The development of a new, flexible Pure assessment module to support institutional evaluation. This will leverage existing functionality and features in Pure, as well as planned 2023 developments, including review content and communication capabilities. Work on the module will begin with an audit of Pure user requirements.
  - The introduction of narrative CVs. There is a growing appetite for these among researchers and institutions who want to highlight more than just their research outputs; for example, awards, prizes and contributions to open science. In 2023, we will explore how we can leverage Pure’s rich data to create these via the CV module.
  - Making it easier to highlight stories of impact using the new portal design.
- Continue improving the capabilities and performance of Pure’s reporting module. We will also explore how these reporting innovations can be leveraged elsewhere in Pure; for example, in the CV module and in dashboards. Planned 2023 developments include:
  - Continued refinement of reporting roles and responsibilities, so that you can easily determine the level of access and editing rights assigned to your users.
  - Expanded reporting options for collaborations, both inside and outside your institution, offering valuable insights into the productivity and impact of those partnerships.
  - New reporting filters and values, making it easier to tailor reports to your needs.
  - The ability to export data stories to Word, where you can edit and optimize them.
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