

# A Remarkable Opportunity – A Collaborative Journey



Research Intelligence

## Pure

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Make confident program decisions, streamline funding analysis and forge new partnerships with complete, correct, current and connected information around research activities.





## Professor Louw

Vice Chancellor

“It was very important for us to buy systems that were the best-of-breed and second, had a robust post-sale team that would support us and work with us. Pure satisfied both of these requirements.”

Founded in 2013, Torrens University is rapidly emerging as a key player in Public Health, Health Systems and Services and Artificial Intelligence research in Australia. To build on its early successes and to support ambitious plans for the future, it was necessary for Torrens to implement appropriate research infrastructure and reporting capabilities. In 2019, the newly-established Research Infrastructure team, led by Lyn Bosanquet and Paul Quilty, turned to Elsevier and Pure.

Torrens University Australia is a private university that is currently ranked 33rd in Australia. With over 20,000 students based at campuses in Australia, New Zealand and China, and international students enrolled online, it is one of the fastest-growing universities in Australia.

The structure of Australia’s robust ‘Excellence in Research’ system (ERA), established by the Australian Research Council, has propelled universities to be increasingly strategic about where to concentrate research resources. An institution’s success is directly linked to its ability to recognise and build

upon its strengths. The right Current Research Information System (CRIS), coupled with the best implementation, provides data decision-makers with needed tools to navigate this highly competitive environment. For a successful research ecosystem, this data and information tends to focus on publications and metrics, pre- and post- grant award management, and Higher Degree Research students growth and research training environments.

### Organizational Growing Pains

As Australia’s first new university in 20 years, Torrens was in a unique environment compared to other universities – there was no research management system in place for publication collection, monitoring and reporting. With its rapid expansion, the institution was facing several organizational growing pains. These included:

**Exponential Growth:** Within four years of operation, the number of research outputs leapt from double digits to quadruple

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digits. While this number is still relatively small compared to older universities, there was mounting pressure to have a comprehensive CRIS in place to manage the growth of outputs.

**Manual Data Capturing:** Up until this point, all research output data was stored and managed manually in silos, most often by the researchers themselves. Discoverability and accessibility of research data, both internally and externally, did not exist.

To this end, Torrens created a Research Infrastructure and Reporting group lead by the library, to take charge of the monumental task of establishing the required research management infrastructure. This would allow the University,

through the Research and Innovation Office, to report annually on national accreditation requirements for research to TEQSA and support ERA submissions.

### With Unique Challenges Comes Great Advantage

The unique challenge of having no existing research output management infrastructure provided three significant advantages: no legacy system to consider, no set parameters to work around, and no data to convert for migration. This offered a tremendous opportunity for the team to define its parameters for meaningful data generation and reporting. And with no



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## Professor London

Pro-Vice-Chancellor,  
Torrens University

“Reporting is essential for management of research outputs, grant applications and awards and it can be extremely difficult to get right. By being able to define the right parameters from the start, we have confidence in the reports generated because we know the data is clean and universal. I am extremely impressed with the dashboard for the grant management system that has been built in Pure as it supports efficient and effective decision making.”

existing data to convert, the team was able to start with a clean slate and work with accurate data right from the beginning.

It is important to note that compliance with ARC and NHMRC as Administering Institutions requires the ability to manage research grants. In mid-2021, Torrens turned to the Pure system and brought together an integrated team from the Library Research Infrastructure as well as the Research Management Services team in the Research and Innovation Office to build the workflow, tracking, monitoring and reporting system for grant submissions and post-award matters. Dr Louise Townsin, Manager, Research Management Services, and Research Officer Kay Govin, were instrumental in driving the Application and Award modules in Pure with Paul Quilty, Murray Coggan and Jasmine Darlington-Rielly.

### Getting the Best-of-Breed CRIS

Having worked at Monash University when it first implemented Pure, Paul was already familiar with Pure. Lyn had worked for Elsevier for many years and had a strong connection to the company and its products. The first-hand knowledge of what Pure could do and the strong support Elsevier could provide gave both great confidence in the solution.

Aside from wanting a best-of-breed solution, the University needed a system not just to manage research, but to grow research output. Therefore, having a comprehensive yet dynamic system such as Pure could future-proof the support and management of exponential growth in research outputs.

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### Getting It Right From the Beginning

As with any system, the true value of a CRIS can only be realized with thorough implementation and strong user adoption.

Throughout the implementation process, the Research Infrastructure and Reporting group worked hard to drive adoption of Pure by establishing an ORCID-linked profile for every researcher and persistent promotion of the system's features and benefits through researcher education and internal communications. The team continues to educate and promote Pure to ensure active usage amongst the Torrens' researchers.

This new-user onboarding process ensures the discoverability of researchers' names and credentials internally and externally while kick-starting the training and familiarization process.

As Pure integrates seamlessly with other Elsevier solutions such as SciVal and Scopus, a tremendous amount of data is placed at the fingertips of research leaders, improving the quality of strategic decision making and reinforcing the University's ambitious growth trajectory.

While Torrens has a proud history in the areas of learning and teaching, a new focus on becoming a research-intensive

“We knew that the strategic direction of Elsevier was to embed itself in not just the product but the whole research process. We also knew that Elsevier had been working closely with the research community. This meant to us that Pure would be well supported. It was comforting to know that our chosen vendor was investing their future in the same space as ours. Therefore, we had every confidence that Elsevier would be a good partner.”

Professor Louw

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“We have made an enormous effort in ensuring high adoptability of Pure. This is one of the biggest reasons for its success at Torrens University and I hope that the systems and infrastructure continue to support our researchers in their aspirations.”

– Professor London

university has emerged as research programs grow. With Pure, researchers can see their research data, outputs and citation counts growing consistently, manage their grant submissions pre-award, and post-award projects. These capabilities change perspectives and mindsets. At the same time, key research metrics inform strategic decision making.

### Reporting and Submissions

Reporting and submissions can be a daunting task, particularly when submitting to national research authorities. While Torrens had the capabilities to produce reports for the Australia Research Council, the agency responsible for administering the country’s national research evaluation framework, Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA), it decided to acquire Pure’s ERA module in preparation for the next ERA round in 2023.

Torrens was particularly pleased to know that the creation of this module was managed with substantial and ongoing collaboration with the local research infrastructure community, of which they were already a part. Aside from requiring less time to prepare the necessary reports for the submission, with the module, the team can also be assured that the data is accurate and reporting formats comply with ERA’s requirements.

### Driving Research Strategy With a Single Source of Truth

By integrating with other Elsevier solutions such as SciVal and Scopus, Pure provides a tremendous amount of real-time data to research leaders. The availability of live, up to date, bibliometric data improves the capability of strategic decision making, reinforcing the Torrens’s ambitious growth trajectory.

Before having a research infrastructure, the University had to make assumptions when choosing the disciplines to focus research resources on. With Pure, Torrens can analyze the data drawn from the product, as well as other Elsevier solutions such as SciVal and Scopus. The new data revealed that good research



performance existed in other disciplines that had not been considered for funding in the past. In fact, the single source of data and analytics from Pure has helped drive the University’s research strategy and its research focus. Decisions can now be made based on facts rather than assumptions.

Torrens is at an exciting point on its path to becoming a research-intensive university. The Research and Innovation Office, as well as the Infrastructure team, is working to embed the right culture around research management and provide the data required to guide strategic and support decisions.

Armed with a robust research infrastructure, Torrens University is now future ready, fully capable of addressing challenges and achieving its research growth objectives.

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“To purchase and utilize a module, you need to be sure that the module will deliver and the organization behind the product will support it. Torrens’ ERA Submission Steering Committee is confident that the data and the reports that are generated from Pure’s ERA module are accurate and in line with ERA’s requirements.”

– Professor Louw

“As a new university, our research output is still relatively small compared to older universities, so we have to make sure that every publication and grant counts. The data from Pure, SciVal and Scopus has allowed the University to have the confidence in making informed strategic decisions that are based not on gut feeling or past practices, but reality.”

– Professor London

TORRENS UNIVERSITY AUSTRALIA

*Innovative and Meaningful Research*

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Collaborations and top research areas from the last five years

Click dots and donuts to bring up details or Select a country/territory from the list

Torrens University’s Pure Portal <https://research.torrens.edu.au/en> accessed on 22nd June 2022.

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