CASE STUDY

UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN, DENMARK

Excerpted from the 2020 whitepaper.
As one of the first institutions to implement Pure, the University of Copenhagen (UCPH) has leveraged its long history of engagement with the Danish Pure User Group and Pure to influence the development roadmap.

The University of Copenhagen (UCPH) was founded in 1479 and is one of the largest and oldest universities in Europe. They employ over 10,000 staff, over half of whom are researchers. The university produces over 8,500 publications every year.

UCPH was among the first universities to implement Pure, back in the early 2000s. One of the key drivers for getting a proper CRIS/RIMS was the introduction in Denmark of the Bibliometric Research Indicator (BFI; “forskning” is Danish for “research”), a national system for allocating research funding to Danish universities based on research output. The requirements involve tracking publications in three categories of journals and reporting to the national system. This can be a complicated and time-consuming process to manage. Pure was able to automate much of the work, including integrated reporting to the national system, thus saving UCPH money and reducing errors.

UCPH also wanted a research portal to make the university's researcher profiles accessible to a global audience. The increased visibility of research results and researchers provided by the Pure portal was expected to facilitate increased collaborations within the university and with external partners. These collaborations, in turn, would attract more research funding and further increase research output.

This case study is excerpted from the 2020 whitepaper “Buy or build, an exploration of the total cost of ownership for a research information management system”. Research institutions seeking to improve performance and accelerate growth are encouraged to read the whitepaper: https://bit.ly/2M76AHi.
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The implementation of Pure took approximately 10-12 months. Overall, about 10-15 FTEs were involved in the implementation of Pure. A significant effort went into a customised approach for the Pure Portal, integrating it with the Content Management System (CMS) behind university’s website.

Another reason for the substantial internal resources required for implementation was that the university is very decentralized. For the first time, many different institutes and departments (e.g., library and research office) had to work together, coordinate activities and take joint decisions.

Today, approximately 15 FTE administrators provide support for Pure, including roles responsible for adding and validating content.
Case Study: University of Copenhagen, Denmark

Because UCPH has such a long history with Pure, and Denmark has such a large and experienced Pure User Group (Pure was originally developed in Denmark), many of the more recent lessons learned reflect sophisticated Pure integration and usage behaviour at a large university.

- Hosting in the cloud as a provider-managed service is significantly more cost-effective. At the time of the original implementation, the standard was to host Pure locally at the university. UCPH is now moving towards a switch to the cloud-hosted and managed service to reduce infrastructure costs.

- Two-way integration (read-write) with Pure is valuable for increased flexibility. The Pure API for integrating with local systems has traditionally supported reading data out of Pure to feed into other systems. UCPH determined that it could further reduce its TCO if it could automate the writing of data into Pure as well. The recent release of the Pure Write API is therefore most welcome as it supports the possibility to auto-populate Pure from other local systems and thus reduce the manual work for data entry and validation.

- Pure User Groups are valuable for sharing best practices and for influencing provider development priorities. As one of the first institutions to implement Pure, the UCPH has been active in the Danish Pure User Group for many years. Coordinated communication and advocacy by the large number of Pure users has enabled the user group to influence the development roadmap for Pure. As Pure market coverage has grown substantially, especially since Elsevier acquired Pure from Atira (the original Danish developer), it has become more difficult for Elsevier to take individual institutional needs into consideration. However, UCPH remains actively engaged in the Danish Pure User Group, working with colleagues to leverage their collective interests to identify development options that balance regional and global priorities.

- Data re-use between co-authoring institutions can increase efficiency and reduce TCO. As there are many institutions using Pure today, many Pure installations include records (e.g., articles) that have been co-authored by researchers at multiple Pure institutions. UCPH and colleague institutions recommend that Pure facilitate the reuse of data between Pure institutions to lower the time for data entry and validation.

The UCPH has a long history of working with Pure and was one of the very first institutions to implement it. Many lessons have been learned by both the university and the provider, and these lessons have been leveraged through the years to generate improvements and guide successful implementations of additional modules.

For more detail about selecting and implementing RIMS, review the Elsevier/Knowledge E whitepaper “Buy or build, an exploration of the total cost of ownership for a research information management system”: https://bit.ly/2M76AHi