

Challenge: provide a) a completely jargon free explanation of REFEDS R&S and b) simple overview with some technical direction for IT departments

Propose a two-side postcard or flyer on Why REFEDS R&S can help researchers. Why two side? A disconnect between researchers and IT departments has been identified as one of the biggest issues in getting R&S supported

R&S side one: the researcher view (with little jargon)

1. Researchers need to access many different collaborative services in one day to support their work.
2. Many of these services need the researcher to provide some personal data, so require the researcher to login. Researchers have to create multiple login accounts or use a commercial identity provider - creating potential security issues (password reuse) and a bad privacy experience.
3. Researchers would like to use their institutional login to access these services to provide better security, privacy preserving and collaboration enabling access – in the same way they use eduroam to access wifi.
4. Identity federations are designed to help these use cases, but many organisations are reluctant to release any personal information about the researcher using identity federations due to concerns about privacy laws. Research and Scholarship services need some personal data to operate effectively.
5. “R&S” allows institutions to minimise the risk by pre-vetting services and flagging those that have a legitimate interest and explicit requirement for a small set of personal data to be released, ensuring the service is research ready.
6. By adding “R&S” support to its identity system, an organisation can safely release a person’s name and email to these vetted services and enable the access needed by researchers to do their jobs, preserve personal privacy and support better security for research data.

Find out how your org can support R&S by turning over....

R&S side two: the local IT view (with some jargon - based off <https://wiki.refeds.org/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=57147486>)

1. Research and Education Identity Federations are designed to protect the privacy of users – which means only personal information that is strictly necessary is passed to services to help you access services.

2. Many services that support research or scholarly collaboration have a proven need for a small set of personal attributes to provide the desired service – an example might be a grant system that needs your name and email address to communicate information about grants.
3. REFEDS has identified a small set of attributes that work for a large majority of our research and scholarship services – these are name, email address and a unique identifier for the user.
4. A challenge for institutions using Identity Federations is working out which Service Providers have a genuine need for these attributes and configuring an attribute release policy for each service.
5. “R&S” addresses this problem for you. The audit of service providers is done by your Identity Federation against legal requirements and attribute release is automatically applied to the service - decreasing the overhead for Identity Providers and barriers to access for your users.
6. To find out more about how to implement R&S for your Identity Provider please visit the REFEDs website. ([link](#))