WMU Discovery Experts: Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the Discovery Experts database?
Discovery Experts is based on SciVal Experts, which is a research, networking tool that brings together information and helps publicize the expertise of individual scholars. It is a research, networking tool pre-populated with the most useful and yet most difficult information to compile, which forms the initial platform of this system.

2. Why should I be excited about WMU Discovery Experts?
The system is designed for ease of use by WMU faculty and staff and serves as an electronic storage tool to store all your publications, books, conference papers, teaching and curriculum activities. It also serves as a depository to list all your exhibits, performances, and discovery works. As mentioned above, the database is initially pre-populated for ease of use, and ongoing updates keep the information current.

3. What’s in it for me?
The Discovery Experts database helps you to find others at WMU doing discovery activities related to yours so you can collaborate on interdisciplinary projects. It also works as a networking tool that identifies your areas of expertise.

4. What do I have to do to prepare my profile?
Nothing in Phase One, which is revealed on February 14. Elsevier will populate the database with information rooted in Scopus®. Scopus is the world’s largest abstract and citation database of peer-reviewed literature and quality web sources. In Phase Two, information gathered from WMU sources will be added to each profile page: patents, IP, and grant information, for example.

5. What are the three phases of the Experts rollout?
The Elsevier Experts platform will be rolled out in three phases at WMU. In Phase One (February 14) Elsevier will populate the database with information rooted in Scopus® based on user information sent by WMU to Elsevier. In Phase Two (completed by April 1) WMU will provide additional information, pulled from University sources, for inclusion in the database, such as external and internal funding awards, patents, licenses awarded, and other available data regarding faculty discovery activities. In Phase Three, WMU experts from our faculty and staff will be able to further enhance their system profile by providing additional information regarding their teaching, service, and other activities not previously captured during Phases One and Two. Faculty and researchers will be invited to submit information for inclusion during Phase Three of the rollout. More information will be forthcoming on when and how to submit this material, but the plan calls for gathering this information by May 1, 2014 and then rolling the information into the site by September 2014.
Additional FAQs from Elsevier’s Experts web site:

1. **What is SciVal Experts?**
   SciVal® Experts is an expertise profiling and research networking tool that makes it easy for researchers, administrators, managers and senior leadership to find experts and enable collaboration within your institution and across organizations. Powered by the Elsevier Fingerprint Engine™, SciVal Experts scans and analyzes every publication in the Scopus® database, as well as additional content provided by the institution, creating Fingerprints of individual researcher's expertise and exposing connections among authors. Researchers can enter additional data to paint a more comprehensive picture of their distinctive expertise, or administrators can enter data on researchers' behalf. Profiles are automatically updated and manually reviewed by Elsevier on an ongoing basis, ensuring they are precise, comprehensive and up-to-date.

2. **Who can benefit from SciVal Experts within my institution?**
   SciVal Experts is a valuable resource for personnel throughout your institution, including:
   - **Researchers**
     - Find collaborators for funding opportunities and research projects
     - Publicize their expertise and increase their visibility across the research community
     - Track their list of publications and review other researchers' output
   - **Research Administrators, Managers and Research Development Professionals**
     - Understand the expertise of researchers in the organization and fulfill requests for experts
     - Route funding opportunities to researchers, form research teams and find reviewers for internal grants
     - Track network connections within and across departments and onboard new faculty
   - **Deans and Department Heads**
     - Understand the expertise of researchers in the organization and channel requests for experts
   - **Research Executives**
     - Identify organizational strengths
     - Demonstrate institutional expertise across the research community, industry and the public
   - **Librarians**
Help researchers find collaborators and assist faculty in preparing their promotion & tenure dossiers
Track journals in which researchers are publishing

f. **Students**
   - Find mentors and understand their expertise
   - Identify new journals and articles to read

g. **Communications Specialists**
   - Find experts to comment on news items
   - Identify new articles and grants to promote

h. **Human Resources Staff**
   - Showcase researchers’ expertise to the research community
   - Connect researchers to one another

i. **Development Officers**
   - Match researchers to donors

3. **Can additional data sets be added to the profiles?**
   Yes, Elsevier can integrate institutional content such as grants, patents and HR data. Individual researchers or proxy users can enter additional content such as books, creative works, awards and honors.

4. **How accurate are the profiles within SciVal Experts?**
   Profiles within SciVal Experts are the most accurate in the industry. No method is perfect, but our approach, which is a combination of computer matching and manual linking, gives the most precise profiles with the minimum effort on the institution’s part. Elsevier disambiguates author names and manually reviews the profiles, ensuring publications are associated to the correct author and the profiles are reliable, complete and current. Profiles are automatically updated once a week and manually reviewed three times per year. Users can also have their content modified upon request.

5. **Are changes to the profiles reflected in Scopus?**
   Yes, any changes made to your institution’s profiles during the manual review process will be applied to Scopus.com.

6. **What is Scopus?**
   Elsevier’s Scopus is the largest abstract and citation database of peer-reviewed literature with more than 21,000 titles from more than 5,000 international publishers. Scopus delivers the most comprehensive overview of the world’s research output in the fields of science, technology, medicine, social sciences and Arts & Humanities.
7. **What is SciVal Funding?**
SciVal Funding supports researchers and research administrators in the pre-award stage of the funding process. The solution delivers quick and comprehensive access to current funding opportunities and award information, allowing users to find the right funding opportunities, analyze the funding environment, and maximize award chances.

8. **What is the Elsevier Fingerprint Engine?**
A back-end software system, the Elsevier Fingerprint Engine mines the text of scientific documents – publication abstracts, funding announcements and awards, project summaries, patents, proposals/applications, and other sources – to create an index of weighted terms which defines the text, known as a Fingerprint™ visualization. By aggregating and comparing Fingerprints, the Elsevier Fingerprint Engine enables institutions to look beyond metadata and promote valuable connections among people, publications, funding opportunities and ideas. The Elsevier Fingerprint Engine powers many solutions including SciVal Experts, Reviewer Finder and the Elsevier Journal Finder.