Transitioning from bepress's Selected Works to Elsevier's Pure: A Cautionary Tale

SELECTEDWORKS™

Library-curated faculty profiles that maximize scholarly impact

Pure

What are Pure and Selected Works / Expert Gallery Suite?

- Pure is described as a "Research Information Management System"
- Selected Works / Expert Gallery Suite helps "to increase (& track) the impact of your institution's research, scholarship & expertise."
- Both tools can be used as institutional repositories

What is the history of Pure and Selected Works / Expert Gallery Suite?

bepress HAS BEEN ACQUIRED BY ELSEVIER A SUBSIDIARY OF RELX Group

- bePress is a small company founded by academics in 1999
- Digital Commons is bePress's signature product. bePress claims they have a 50% market share in the institutional repository market.
- bePress officially launches Selected Works / Expert Gallery Suite in 2017
- August 2017, Elsevier acquires bePress
- "It is clear that Elsevier is no longer simply a publisher of scholarly content. In recent years, the company has been expanding beyond publishing into what is described on the Elsevier website as "a global information analytics business." The purchase of bepress is just the latest in a string of acquisitions that have positioned the company to provide a full spectrum of publishing, workflow, and analytics services" (Ferguson).
- Of the acquisition, Barbara Fister, Gustavus Adolphus College, wrote, "Libraries have invested time and dollars into institutional repositories and library-supported publishing because of the behavior of highly profitable publishers like Elsevier, so all of that effort abruptly becoming the property of Elsevier is especially vexing" (McKenzie).
- Elsevier announces Selected Works / Expert Gallery Suite will be retired on December 31, 2024

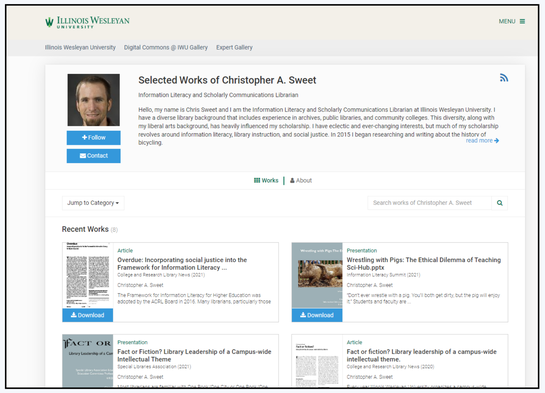
Sources:

Ferguson, Christine, "Elsevier, bepress, and a Glimpse at the Future of Scholarly Communication," *Serials Review*, *44*(1), 51–56. https://doi.org/10.1080/00987913.2018.1434379

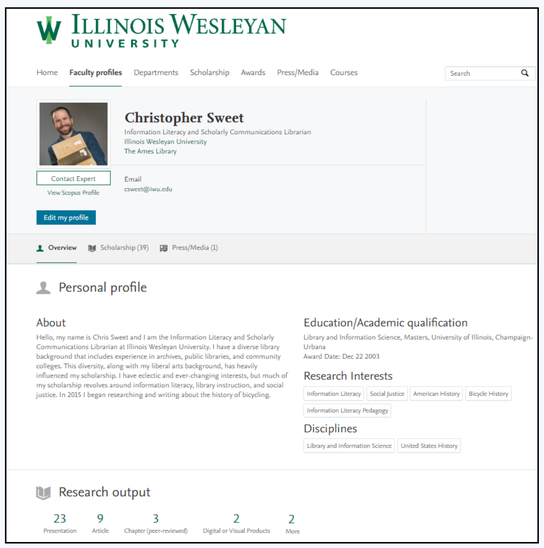
McKenzie, Lindsay, "Elsevier Expands Footprint in Scholarly Workflow," *Inside Higher Ed*, August 2, 2017: https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2017/08/03/elsevier-makes-move-institutional-repositories-acquisition-bepress

Schonfeld, Roger, "Elsevier Acquires bePress, Scholarly Kitchen," August 2, 2017: https://scholarlykitchen.sspnet.org/2017/08/02/elsevier-acquires-bepress/

Selected Works



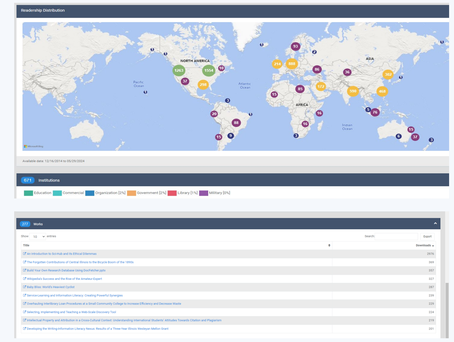
Pure



Lack of Analytics

- Expert Gallery Suites has robust analytics easily accessible for the end user
  - Analytics include: number of article downloads, interactive map of readership distribution, institutions that are downloading, and Plum X altmetrics.
  - Elsevier owns Expert Gallery Suites, astonishingly none of the these metrics that allow faculty to measure and demonstrate research impact are available in Pure.

Screenshots of author analytics from Expert Gallery Suites



Webinar Link



Elsevier webinar with information about migrating from Expert Gallery Suite (EGS) to Pure. May 2023

Problems with Pure

Major

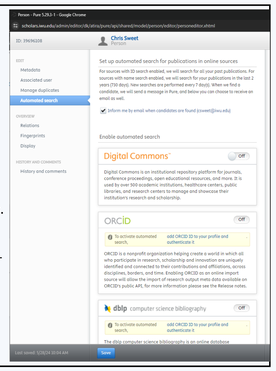
- Support is extremely limited, particularly when compared with Expert Gallery Suite. Frontline tech support can rarely help with anything beyond basic issues. Some tickets are left unresolved for months.
- The entire product is very science-focused, leaving fine arts and humanities faculty feeling unwelcome on the platform.
- User interface is poorly designed.
- Administrator interface is unnecessarily complex and cumbersome.
- Some of the automatic import integrations do not work. Pure support was unable to get our ORCID integration working.
- Long-term questions remain about Elsevier's commitment to open access publishing.
- As noted above, end-user research analytics are non-existent

Minor

- Pure can utilize single sign-on systems which is an advantage over Expert Gallery Suite. Even with Pure support help, configuring single sign-on was a cumbersome process.
- Pure cannot default to showing faculty profiles on the product homepage. Departments are shown instead.
- Pure faculty profiles are very text-based. Expert Gallery Suite featured integrated thumbnail images of publications and slideshows. Videos

Pure: Automatic Imports

- As a tool for showcasing, and increasing, the impact of faculty scholarship, Pure's most important advantage over Selected Works/Expert Gallery is the ability to automatically import from a variety of external sources.
- Automatic imports of new citations allow faculty to keep their profiles current without manually entering information.
- These sources include: ORCID, SSRN, Unpaywall, EBSCO, Digital Commons, Scopus, Web of Science, Pubmed, arXiv, and many more.
- The image to the right shows the user view for turning on automatic imports.
- Pure's "NewsFlo" option should get more attention. NewsFlo gathers mentions of scholars/scholarship from websites. It is potentially useful in the promotion and tenure process.



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Pure Alternatives

With Selected Works / Expert Gallery Suite scheduled for retirement this year, what are potential alternatives to Pure?

While there are multiple options for institutional repository software, and multiple research management systems, there are limited options that do both well. Esploro from Clarivate may be the best direct alternative to Pure.

Commercial

- Digital Commons
- ContentDM
- Esploro

Open Source

- DSpace
- Islandora
- Hyku

Digital Commons™ CONTENTdm DSPACE ExLibris Esploro islandora hyku