Elsevier’s Pure: Raising SPbU’s global visibility in academic research
Saint Petersburg State University chooses Elsevier’s Pure to modernize university research systems

When Ivan Grigoriev and Sergey Kondakov began reviewing potential research information management (RIM) solutions for Saint Petersburg State University (SPbU), they knew they needed something special. SPbU’s in-house system was not only expensive to maintain but was not scalable, accessible or compatible with other applications, including the university’s accounting and HR systems. Ivan and Sergey knew that the university’s next RIM solution had to meet the data-driven research and business intelligence needs of the university’s staff, faculty and growing student body. While the dilemma was multifaceted, they found a complete solution with Elsevier’s Pure.

An upgraded in-house solution vs. Pure

Ivan and Sergey introduced Pure to university leaders, and discussions about either upgrading the current in-house system or transitioning to Pure began. Upgrading the RIM processes and systems would mean numerous weeks of coding, prolonged disruption for faculty and students, and extensive IT support. SPbU realized that developing an in-house system that could match Pure’s robust data model was beyond their resources, in terms of both cost and frequent system interruptions.

“The strong Pure data model helps us to simplify internal business and research processes. Reporting functionality is very comprehensive, and its flexibility provides tremendous opportunities.”

—Sergey Kondakov, Deputy Head Executive, Directorate on Human Resources, Saint Petersburg State University
Pure answers the university’s needs

After selecting Pure, SPbU found that Pure not only met but exceeded their requirements:

1. Significantly reduce time spent tracking and reporting on academic research per faculty member

   SPbU researchers now have web profiles on Elsevier’s Pure Portal that showcase their prominence as global experts. Because they are searchable by other campuses and institutions, connections that are helpful in securing grants can be easily and quickly made. Researchers can also share and discuss critical research strategies more effectively, reducing the time it takes to receive confirmations and signatures from weeks to hours. With Pure as a single source of data, the university no longer needs multiple outside applications to house, update or extract data and content for consistent research reporting and project reviews. For example, SPbU can now quickly report that published papers from national or international collaborations is at 67 percent and continuing to grow.

2. Web-based portal for global networking and showcasing research outputs

   The higher visibility of SPbU's immense research output on the global stage resulted in more grants and funding, leading to an increase in citation rates and published papers. The Pure Portal is optimized for high visibility on search engines. The university's Field-Weighted Citation Impact has grown since it introduced the Pure Portal in 2017.

“Portal searching is amazing! It allows potential partners to find academic experts inside our university.”

—Ivan Grigoriev, Advisor – Rector’s Office, Saint Petersburg State University
And the number of indexed published papers in Scopus has increased by 37 percent — from 3,124 in 2015 to 4,416 in 2019.

3. A defined process for administrative staff to track and manage research funds

From funding initiation to management to distribution, Pure allows for a streamlined, real-time process. SPbU monitors funding applications and researcher activity, and aligns them with academic research output for precise reporting. Using Pure’s dashboard and data search filters, SPbU tracked more than 4,000 applications and 2,600 confirmed grants in a single year.

4. Integration with Scopus and Web of Science to comply with national assessment systems

SPbU now captures national assessment information in seconds and allows researchers to submit information directly from Pure. The university uses both Web of Science and Scopus, a major data source for the Times Higher Education World University Rankings and QS World University Rankings. Since its transition to Pure, SPBU has climbed 33 positions in the QS rankings.

5. Accurate tracking, monitoring and reporting

With Elsevier’s Pure, structured metadata enables SPbU to predict and report trends according to field of study, quantitative research output, interdisciplinary studies and more. Pure’s data analytics assist SPbU’s researchers and research administration with reporting potential funding, accurate grant disbursement and updates to researchers’ CVs. SPbU users can export static reports in CSV, Excel or PDF, or prepare dynamically linked reports accessible within Pure.

“The team’s responsiveness and the organization of interaction with Elsevier as a whole was at a very high level.”

—Ivan Grigoriev
Users can switch between detailed data or aggregate data views to aid fact-driven decision-making.

6. Seamless integration with accounting, HR and other departments

With Pure, SPbU can now seamlessly initiate software upgrades without worry about losing data or compatibility with other university systems. A pre-validation of data occurs automatically with Pure’s synchronized schematics and database architecture, even when Pure is working with evolving data structures.

The positive impact of Pure on Saint Petersburg State University systems

With Elsevier’s timely team response, SPbU’s transition from an in-house RIM to Elsevier’s Pure allowed for immediate strides. SPbU administrators, faculty and students found Pure easy to use — and even discovered unique ways to use the Pure Portal and solve issues across departments.

Pure’s positive impacts have reached every level of the university, helping it move into the future and ensure its long-term standing in the global academic community.
Pure

Pure is a versatile centralized system that facilitates evidence-based approaches to your institution’s research and collaboration strategies, assessment exercises and business decisions. It enables building reports, performance assessments, managing researcher profiles, networking, expertise discovery and more — with less administrative burden.

For more information about Pure, visit https://www.elsevier.com/solutions/pure

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