



One Step Beyond

Research groups - using Pure to
enhance your organisation
structure

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Background

- About University of Bristol
- Organisation hierarchy of faculties and schools
- University and Specialist Institutes and Research Themes
- Over 200 faculty and school research groups
- Lower level groups are fluid and flexible

Background

- How did we start using groups in Pure?
 - Initially used for a “Themes review”, but quickly grew
 - Senior staff keen not to dictate structure
- Changes to University systems
 - Web profile system being retired, with no immediate replacement

Implementation 2014/2015

- Collated a list of groups
- Created groups as Pure organisations
- Associated admin: request log, editorial roles
- 133 groups, 23 themes and 2 URIs added
- Structured keywords promoted as an alternative

Groups Review 2016/2017

- Adjusted process
 - Single point of contact to sign-off the list of groups
 - A named admin is required for each group
- Support for group administrators
 - 23 page user guide
 - 90 minute training session

Organisational challenges

- Difficult to define purpose & benefits to faculty
 - Promoting online
 - Reporting group performance
 - Creating lists of publications
- Lack of senior staff involvement made it hard to
 - Define lists of groups (this can be political!)
 - Identify admin resources to maintain groups

Administrative challenges

- Editorial roles required are high level & complex
- Undoing incorrect content affiliation is arduous, this can create anxiety when adding members
- Time-consuming to affiliate many members
- Information becomes inaccurate over time

Next Steps

- **Revise process**
 - Involve senior staff
 - Get clarity on driver
- **Explore pushing data to other systems**
 - Grant costings and awards tools
 - Reporting and intelligence tools

Next Steps – Pure improvement suggestions

- Simpler editor role for managing affiliations
- Auto-population of end dates
- Report on editor roles
- Self affiliation for groups?

Summary

- Can be useful for capturing and promoting clusters of people and research
- Don't under-estimate what's involved, requires clear policy and senior staff buy-in
- Our lower-level groups are flexible (Pure isn't)
- Potential reuse of data elsewhere

Thank you! Gràcies

Any questions?

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