New Author Records and Author Search in Web of Science

Pioneering the world of research for more than 50 years

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Agenda

1. Why the Change?

2. What has Changed?

3. Features and Functionality

4. Workflows/Scenarios

5. FAQs

6. Additional Resources
Why the change?
The Power of the Group

“The Web of Science Group is on a journey of transformation and innovation to support a more holistic and researcher-centric workflow.”

✓ Help researchers track more of their impact and own their online identity.

✓ Deliver the highest-quality disambiguated author data in Web of Science... and the world.

✓ Bring the highest-quality author data into the Web of Science Group’s other solutions.

✓ Make the Web of Science Group’s solutions the most trusted resources for confident discovery of an author’s published work, as well as assessment of their output and associated impact.
What has changed?
What has changed?

We are enhancing the quality of author disambiguation and accessibility of author data in Web of Science, while giving researchers ownership of their Author Record via Publons.

Features will release in BETA

- A fully re-imagined Author Search.
- A new Author Record view.
- Ability for Web of Science users to submit feedback to correct publication records.
- An enhanced author disambiguation algorithm that suggests author records and learns from user feedback.
- Give researchers ability to claim ownership of their ‘Web of Science Author Record’ via Publons.
What is author disambiguation?

Name ambiguity is a frequently encountered problem in the scholarly community:

• Different researchers publish under the same name.
• Individual researchers publish under many names.
• Languages and cultural naming conventions introduce additional challenges.

Author disambiguation is a process that aims to find all publications that belong to a given author and distinguish them from publications of other authors who share the same name.

FACT: A mere hundred surnames still make up over 85% of China’s 1.3 billion citizens. The top three—Wang, Li, and Zhang—cover more than 20% of the population.
A Timeline: Identifiers to Profiles

Pioneering the way...

With ResearcherID, we pioneered the concept of assigning a unique identifier for authors that could work across systems.

2007

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2007

Web of Science Group has supported ORCID from the beginning, even prior to its launch. The concept, code, and some of the original funding for ORCID came from ResearcherID back in 2011.

2012

We have always integrated with ORCID... now with Publons, researchers can effortlessly keep their ORCID up to date by simply updating their Publons profile – as the Publons profile offers so much more.

2013

We are investing in the Web of Science ResearcherID across our solutions to keep publications synchronised across the Web of Science Group’s suite of solutions: Web of Science, InCites, Converis, Publons and more.

2019

NOW we’ve introduced true Author Records in Web of Science, and Web of Science ResearcherID is that unique identifier to ensure direct discovery of that author at any time.
Evolution in Author Identifiers and Profiles

A unique experience for unique author identifiers.

Web of Science and Publons each have a unique Identifying number.

Web of Science ResearcherID links the disambiguated data across systems in a bidirectional relationship.

- Creating a Publons profile will generate a Web of Science ResearcherID
- Authors can correct their Web of Science publications in Publons and those changes are automatically reflected in Web of Science.

An easier way to manage profiles.

Update your ORCID and corrections will automatically sync with Web of Science.

Update your Publons profile and changes can be sent to ORCiD - or - Update your ORCiD and changes can be sent to Publons.
We are all trying to get to better data.

Let’s get there together.

Author data, made better together.

Author disambiguation at scale needs an algorithmic approach + human curation

Deliver a true Author Record via intuitive Author Search in Web of Science

Allow for users to provide feedback; authors to claim and curate their record via Publons

Feedback is reviewed by a team of specialists - Accepted feedback will improve our disambiguation algorithm

Continuously improve author disambiguation

Author profiles are core
Features and Functionality
It all begins with a simple, fast and intuitive Author Search Beta

A new Author Search quickly and efficiently guides users through the process of easily locating the author you are looking for. Regardless of how common their name is.

Saving users time, while improving the ease and accuracy of finding authors’ full publication records in Web of Science Core Collection...

Search by Author with type-ahead functionality

Search by Web of Science ResearcherID or ORCiD
Your search experience automatically adjusts depending on the level of name ambiguity.

**Completely unique names** will take you straight to the author record.

**Moderately ambiguous names** take you to a results screen where you can select the correct record or merge records into one author view.

**Highly ambiguous names** will intuitively guide users to further refine their search (as shown) before going to the results page.

**Our disambiguation algorithm** uses more than 40 indicators to group together publications likely authored by the same person into an Author Record.
The authors indexed in Web of Science Core Collection haven’t changed, but how you find, interact with, and manage their publication record has...

What is an Author Record?
A clean and comprehensive picture of an author’s Web of Science Core Collection publication and citation record.
Same Authors. New View.

NEW Author Record (BETA)

See the person, rather than just a list of publications.

Author name
Alternate name variants
Affiliations
List of publications – including the ability to view as a set of results to export, and analyze with links to full text.

Web of Science Citation Network view
- H-index
- Sum of Times Cited
- Total Citing Articles
A new seamless curation process gives users the ability to submit feedback to improve Author Records and persistently correct publication records.

Authors can now claim ownership and maintain their Web of Science Author Record via Publons.

Any Web of Science registered user can submit feedback to correct an Unclaimed Author Record.

Everyone benefits from corrections made by the research community.
A mutually manual curation process...

Feedback isn’t just going into a computer...

All submitted feedback is being reviewed by a real human! Because if you are taking the time to suggest improvements, we want to make sure they are validated and implemented correctly.

... the algorithm learns from your feedback.

Our advanced clustering algorithm uses artificial intelligence to learn from user feedback and will continuously improve the accuracy of author disambiguation.

Author data, made better together
Giving authors ownership of their Web of Science publication record

While anyone signed into Web of Science can suggest feedback on an author’s record...

...only one person (the Author) can CLAIM ownership of their record.

CLAIM THIS RECORD creates a Web of Science ResearcherID for the author’s publications, that will display in both Web of Science and Publons – creating a unique identifier (Web of Science ResearcherID) for that author.
Researchers can own their identity

Author’s can manage their Web of Science Author Record via Publons, which sends any corrections back into Web of Science and ORCiD.

Once an author’s record has been claimed, no one else can make corrections.

Publons is a true profile. Not just an author profile, but a comprehensive researcher profile.

A single place where researchers can track their publications, citation metrics, peer reviews and journal editing work. Automatically updating their records on both Web of Science and ORCiD.
Workflows/Scenarios
Claiming your publications in the Web of Science

- Signed into your Publons profile after 15 April 2019?
  - Yes: Have you imported your publications from WoS?
    - Yes: Your WoS Author Record should appear as claimed and you’re all set!
    - No: Use the import tool to claim your publications
  - No: Do you have a RID?
    - Yes: A Publons profile has been created for you. Find your profile and activate it.
    - No: Do you have an ORCID?
      - Yes: Find your Author Record in WoS and claim it by creating a Publons account.
      - No: Navigate to WoS and find your author record and claim it. Or search for your author record from WoS.

If you have an ORCID, link it to your Publons profile.
I am a librarian and I want to correct an Author Record

After searching for the author’s name, either open a single Author Record or select multiple records that contain publications by the same person and click ‘View Combined Record’.

On the Author Record screen, click ‘Correct this record’, sign in to WoS, and proceed to the curation page.

Select which publications which are not authored by the researcher to remove them from the record.

You can remove publications in bulk by name and journal title.

Submit your changes, detailing any additional information in the free text provided.

You will receive email notification confirming your corrections, and another when they have been reviewed by our editorial team (aim within 48 hours).

If your feedback is accepted, changes to WoS will be visible in up to 3 days.

If your feedback is rejected, a reason will be given and opportunity to escalate to our support team.
"I am an author with publications in Publons from an ‘old’ RID/ORCID (same name)"

- I search WoS for my published name variants
- My Author Record displays my associated RID (linkable to Publons).
- My Author Record may contain other algorithmically-added publications.
- The record is not yet ‘claimed’

- I ‘claim’ the record in Publons.
- I select the publications that are mine.
- This submits feedback to WoS (i.e., these are mine, these are not mine).
- My list of publications in Publons updates to include any newly added publications.

- My WoS Author Record is ‘claimed’
- No-one else can claim it
- The publications list matches Publons*

*Publons does not currently import some types of publication (e.g., corrections) therefore the numbers may sometimes not match
I am an author with publications in Publons from an ‘old’ RID/ORCID (different name)

- I search WoS for my published name variants
- My Author Record displays without an associated RID.*
- The record is unclaimed.
- The publications list is augmented (by DAIS)

*DAIS has been unable to match the RID name to any names of the authorships with those publications.

- I ‘claim’ the record in Publons.
- I select the publications that are mine.
- This submits feedback to WoS (i.e., these are mine, these are not mine)
- My list of publications in Publons updates to include any newly added publications.

- My WoS Author Record is ‘claimed’
- No-one else can claim it
- The publications list matches Publons*
- My RID is now associated with the authorships of those publications.
- My RID displays on my Author Record.

*Publons does not currently import some types of publication (e.g., corrections) therefore the numbers may sometimes not match
“I am a new user importing my publications to Publons”

- I create an account in Publons.
- I add Alternative publishing names.
- I click ‘Publications’ > ‘Import publications’ > ‘See my Web of Science Publications’
- Publons searches WoS for matching Author Records by email and then by name or alternative published names

- I select the publications that are mine.
- This submits feedback to WoS (i.e., these are mine, these are not mine)
- My list of publications in Publons updates to include any newly added publications.

- My WoS Author Record is ‘claimed’
- No-one else can claim it
- The publications list matches Publons*

*Publons does not currently import some types of publication (e.g., corrections) therefore the numbers may sometimes not match
“I am a new user claiming my record on Web of Science”

- I navigate to Author Search in Web of Science Core Collection
- I search for my published names
- I select any records that look like they contain my publications.

- I click ‘claim this record’
- I get taken to Publons, where I create a new account.

- I select which publications are mine from the list (I can filter out publications by year, organization and name).
- I click to import the publications.
- (After ~24 hrs) My WoS Author Record is ‘claimed’
- No-one else can claim it
- The publications list matches Publons*

*Publons does not currently import some types of publication (e.g., corrections) therefore the numbers may sometimes not match
FAQ

Why are we releasing it as a beta?
Whilst we are confident that the Author Search functionality will offer high levels of accuracy to the user from day one, releasing it in beta will allow us to gauge user response and set expectations around timelines for processing as yet unknown levels of feedback about the author records.

How accurate is the cluster quality?
We're investing heavily to continually improve DAIS but no algorithm is ever going to be 100% accurate, which is why we offer two pathways to suggesting amendments to the records: (i) by claiming a record through Publons, or (ii) submitting feedback through WoS. All amendments we receive will feed back into DAIS to improve its accuracy further.

How long will it take for submitted feedback to show up in Web of Science?
During the beta phase this will largely depend on the quantity and complexity of the feedback we receive, but users can expect to see their corrections visible in the WoS records within 2 weeks. We will be continually improving and streamlining this workflow as we progress.
FAQ

What is a Web of Science ResearcherID (RID) now?
Web of Science ResearcherID has evolved from an author profile to a unique author identifier in Web of Science.

Who has a RID now?
All of those individuals that previously held a ResearcherID still have them, but they will be managed via Publons. Any researcher that has created a Publons account and imported their Web of Science publications will receive a RID.

Who has a RID after launch?
All RIDs prior to launch will remain unchanged. After launch, any author that claims their Author Record via Publons will be receive a RID, and any researcher creating a Publons account and importing their WoS publications will get a RID.

Who has a RID in the future? When?
The end goal will be to give every author in the Web of Science Core Collection a RID, creating a unique identifier for every individual author in Web of Science Core Collection.
FAQ

What happens when claiming on Publons? What does that experience look like and how does it impact my record?

In Publons, users can choose to import their publications by performing a WoS search from within the Publons interface and confirming which of the records it finds are theirs. Publons shares this data back with WoS so the records are reflected the same in both places.

When can a claimed record change? What happens when there’s a new publication that an author hasn’t yet claimed?

Researchers can find and claim their new publications to add to their claimed Author Record by using the Web of Science search tool in Publons. New publications will NOT be automatically added to claimed Author Records, and will instead form a separate author record until the author claims them as part of their claimed Author Record.

When can a curated record change? Can DAIS add records? Can I suggest new records?

The DAIS algorithm can add new publications to a curated Author Record if it believes them to be by the same researcher. Other users can also suggest new publications to a record by combining any separate, unclaimed Author Records (but only until the record is Claimed).

Can I make suggestions to a claimed record?

In this phase, no changes can be made to an author record once it has been claimed by the author.
FAQ

Will a user be able to suggest feedback after an author has already claimed their record?

NO. Not on day one, no one will be able to suggest feedback on claimed records, but we will monitor and take feedback from market to address any concerns going forward.

Upon launch, approx. 200k Author Records will be claimed. There are approximately 200 million Author records in the Core Collection.

Will that always be the case?

We will develop new functionality inline with user feedback and requirements, which may include the ability to amend claimed records.

Why does a Publons profile not match the Author Search results?

If the name in the Author Search is not the same as the one used for the Publons Profile, this can cause issues in this Beta release. For example, Green Bob and Bob Green will not be seen as the same. Also diacritics in one and not the other will also not be seen as the same.

This mismatch in names effects the Author Search too. When using RID or ORCID results will only be returned if the name in Publons matches what the Author Record uses.

These issue will be resolved in a future release.
Additional Resources
Author data, made better together

PHILIP REIMANN, SENIOR PRODUCT MANAGER, WEB OF SCIENCE GROUP
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The Web of Science Group introduces a collaborative approach to improving researcher identity and disambiguation.

The increasingly global approach to research presents unique challenges. Researchers must establish a research identity for their contribution to their field to be recognized – all while competing for funding and positions and establishing valuable collaborative relationships. The Web of Science Group has designed the latest Web of Science™ release – a new Author Search, Author Record and curation mechanism – to meet these challenges faced by the research community.
Thank you

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