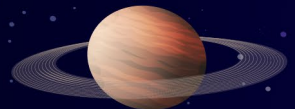




**EXPERT FINDER SYSTEMS**  
INTERNATIONAL FORUM 2025

# EVENT REPORT

Virtual | September 16-18, 2025



[expertfindersystems.org](https://expertfindersystems.org)

*Produced by the Center for Information Management and Educational Services  
Florida State University*

## Introduction

The International Forum on Expert Finder Systems 2025 brought together 151 attendees to enjoy dynamic sessions consisting of keynote addresses, best practice presentations, and panel discussions. This year's theme was "Charting the Research Information Universe: Innovation, Transformation, Impact." The forum, which took place virtually via the Whova event management platform, included the following:

- 1 keynote presentation
- 12 best practices presentations
- 4 panel presentations
- 6 vendor/sponsor presentations
- 3 sponsor meet-up sessions
- 49 speakers

## Program

- Keynote presentations reflected three areas of emphasis in expert finder and research information management (RIM) systems: academic research, academic libraries, and technology/systems innovation.
- Presentations and panels targeted topics such as:
  - Implementation and management of RIM systems
  - AI-enhanced profile systems
  - Enhancing researcher discoverability
  - Building a thriving research ecosystem
  - Role of RIMS in communicating institutional impact and value
  - Promoting and evaluating stakeholder/user engagement
  - RIMS and research security
  - Strategies for successful platform launch and buy in across campus
- Attendees participated via the Whova event platform, using an event-specific web app or mobile app—or both. This offered multiple ways for attendees to engage with the program and interact with each other, before and during the forum, including:
  - Daily polls shared by organizers
  - Session Q & A and polls shared by speakers
  - Icebreakers
  - Contests
  - Direct messaging to attendees, sponsors, and organizing
  - Virtual meet ups with sponsors
  - In-app announcements related to sessions, engagement opportunities, attendee-generated polls, job openings, et al.

## Attendees and Their Goals for Participation in the EFS Forum

- Attendees came from 24 states (plus the District of Columbia) and 5 countries. The states represented included Arkansas, Alabama, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, Nevada, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington DC. There were also attendees based in Canada, France, Israel, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom.
- 108 attendees were affiliated with universities/academic institutions. The rest were affiliated with organizations that are engaged in research or promote research, or they were providers of systems, software, and support in the expert finder and research information space.
- When they registered, attendees were asked about their professional role and experience related to RIMS. Responses were collected from 140 attendees:
  - Of 113 non-vendor attendees, 43 described their primary job role as “Research and Information Management.” Another 22 described their role as “Scholarly,” and 12 respondents selected “Library.” The remaining categories were Research and Development (8), Data Analysis (5), Innovation (3), Faculty Advancement (2), University Admin (2), and Other (7). There were also 27 registrants that self-described as vendors.
  - 97 of 140 respondents indicated they had not previously attended an EFS Forum event.
  - Of non-vendors that responded, 21 said the RIM solution their institution used the most was Symplectic Elements, while 19 used Pure, 8 used Academic Analytics, 8 used Esploro, 4 used VIVO, 6 used a homegrown solution, and 14 chose “Other.”
- When they registered, attendees were asked: “What are your goals for participating in the forum?” They were given examples of goals, but not a pick list or “Other” option. This was a free-response item, and registrants were able to enter multiple goals.
  - Related responses are grouped together in the summary below. Vendor responses are not reflected.
  - Learn about best practices for use and maximization of such systems: 25
  - Network with others working in this domain: 20
  - Learn about uses and benefits of RIM and other systems: 18
  - Discover strategies for implementation and challenges to deployment: 16
  - Learn about multi-university systems: 7
  - Learn about current state of RIM and emerging trends and practices, including AI: 7
  - Explore available technologies and platforms: 5
  - Learn from other institutions, including how to improve implementation: 5
  - Learn about approaches to promote faculty/stakeholder engagement with systems: 4
  - Learn about other systems and/or environments: 3
  - Learn about open-source options: 1
  - Learn about RIMs and integration with IRs [institutional repositories]: 1
  - Understand algorithms used to provide faculty information in RIMs and how that differs from bibliometric indexing: 1

## Sponsors

The forum's steering committee is grateful to the following organizations for sponsoring this event:

- Gold Sponsor: Clarivate
- Gold Sponsor: Elsevier
- Gold Sponsor: Symplectic, part of Digital Science
- Silver Sponsor: West Arete
- Silver Sponsor: Academic Analytics
- Silver Sponsor: VIVO Connect
- Founder & Organizing Sponsor: Florida ExpertNet

## Attendee Post-Event Evaluation: Quantitative Items

Attendees were asked to respond to a post-event evaluation survey. Selected results include the following:

- When asked how satisfied they were with the event, 79% of respondents selected a rating of 8 or higher on a scale of 1 to 10.
- All respondents said the event was either "Very" well organized or "Extremely" well organized.
- 25% of respondents rated the Whova event platform "Excellent," while 46% rated it "Very Good," and 29% rated it "Good."
- Respondents also had the opportunity to rate individual sessions, provide open-ended responses related to their ratings, and suggest future session topics. This information will be used in planning future events. Open-ended responses to selected questions are provided on page 5.

## Attendee Post-Event Evaluation: Open-ended Responses

Attendees were asked to respond to a post-event evaluation survey. Open-ended responses to three of the prompts are provided below.

### 1. Which speaker or session was most informative?

- "CMU session on using AI to analyze CVs for committee work"
- "I'm somewhat biased and will say Academic Analytics of course. Other than that, I thoroughly enjoyed the panel session on 8/16 titled: Exploring Research Impact Across the Research Universe because of Andrea Malone. She was a standout speaker during this event!!"
- "When No One Needs to Click: Expert Profiles in the Age of AI"
- "An AI-Powered Toolset for Research Information Management: Developing Solutions to Automate Committee Service Data and Promote Balanced Service Distribution"
- "The various sessions on AI were the most eye-opening."
- "I don't know if I could pick just one! The panels were extremely useful for varied perspectives. The sessions on AI (as an emerging topic) and Research Security as an important but new facet of this work were both very interesting."
- "I liked the AI implementation sessions. As an information professional, I appreciate the forward thinking."
- "Anirvan Chatterjee"
- "I enjoyed the opening panel discussions on both Days 2 and 3. These were both very informative and they brought up a lot of good points on their topics."
- "No specific one, but I especially appreciated the ones touching on various impacts and uses of AI."
- "The final session, Who Does What? Using AI and Profiles Data to Map the Research Enterprise at Scale. It was new info, and the speaker was very well prepared and had a lot of concrete info to share. Some of the other sessions were re-hashes of previous forums."
- "They were all great! I really appreciated all the panel sessions which offered such a good variety of institutional experiences. The incorporation of the sponsor highlights were short and engaging. The Texas A&M talk on RIMS and Research Security had me running to a local colleague to continue the conversation."
- "The AI sessions were more informative for me, as was the research facilities/instruments talk. Likely because we've had an FIS/RIMS in place for many years but hasn't changed much in the past few."
- "RIMS and research security: How Research Information Management Systems can support research security compliance at a university"
- "The role of RIM systems in communicating the value of universities to the public"
- "Hard to choose. Many were informative for different reasons. Eric Meeks introduced me to things I hadn't really thought about in terms of AI bot impacts on RIMs. Also, Emily K Hart was in a couple panels that I attended and her experience with having to sunset a RIM/EFS was informative."

- "Most is hard to pick - many good options! I loved all instances of hearing about how people were using what they had in creative ways to do more with less."
- "I thought Clarke did a great job of setting the tone for the conference and deserved a round of applause."

**2. Through which conferences, associations, webinars, listserves, etc., have you connected with the RIMS community/peers?**

- "Profiles RNS"
- "Academic Analytics, APLU, AAMC, AIR" "NA"
- "EFS Forum Conference and Webinars" "EFS"
- "EFS, Research Analytics Summit, BRIC"
- "This was my first time getting to engage with others working in this space." "EFS"
- "VIVO"
- "Expert Finder Systems Forum"
- "User Forums; Medical Library Association" "Pure user group, EFS, OCLC"
- "Research Analytics Summit and EFS. Also, A Symplectic user group which meets 4 times a year."
- "Elements/Figshare North American Summit"
- "lis-bibliometrics listserv; research analytics summit;"
- "ACRL, FAIR Data, Research Analytics, Vendor conferences (Elsevier, Dig. Science, VIVO)"

**3. Please note any suggestions for future webinar topics and/or speakers here.**

- "Networking blocks to allow for individuals to meet one another to accommodate for the virtual atmosphere"
- "Open-Source Tools, OpenAlex as the speaker, VIVO, a panel and chair of the organization. The other area is AI and how to integrate it with a RIMS search engine"
- "A webinar for those who are new to these systems, or technical skills that are good for non-technical support staff to know and develop would be good."
- "Clark mentioned being interested in discussing details about how affiliations are represented on expert profiling portals. We return to this conversation somewhat regularly and would love to hear more"
- "More researchers - how are the users using our systems"

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