Updates & Feedback from 2018

At the end of the 2018 multi-funder data gathering period, upon completing their submission, award holders were asked to participate in a short survey to help us at Research Fish to identify and prioritise our efforts into delivering improvements to the platform.

Over 6,000 responses were received and we divided up the task of reading each response and categorising into different themes such as User Interface, Communications, Funder Feedback etc.

We accumulated the the top most common suggestions and focused on ways we could improve:

Suggestion	Solution or Enhancement
Information on what happens to the information collected?	New documents hosted in Award Details page and FAQ's. Suggested that funders also provide advice to award holders.
Where to report specific Outcomes?	"Unsure what common outcome to use" hosted in different areas of platform
What a good submission looks like? What to report?	New guide "Tips to Optimise your researchfish Submission" collaborated by Comms Subgroup, hosted in FAQ's. Suggested funders also provide advice to award holders.
What data RF harvests for researchers and interoperability in general	Information provided in FAQ's, roadmaps advise of ongoing planned interoperability work.
Importing publications from look ups - why they can't edit.	Information added to our FAQ's
Where to go, for which type of help - Researchfish? Funder? RO?	Funders providing more details in their initial comms to researchers.
The submission process:	
a.Users complete their portfolio but don't officially submit	"Ready to Submit?" Check List and Workflow on Award Details page.
b. Confirmation of Submission Complete	Last Submission Date Stamp shown on Overview and Details pages. Confirmation email sent to user.
c. How to Submit	"Ready to Submit?" Check List and Workflow on Award Details page.

We have worked closely with the Comms Subgroup to address how to resolve the first three suggestions and as a result, we have produced two new documents; "Tips to Optimise your Researchfish Submission" and "How the Information is used by your Funder" and we would welcome any feedback.

Some of the improvements required systematic changes that may not be visible to the end user, but are critically important.

Further improvements to the user interface, including look & feel and accessibility, are scheduled throughout 2019. We always welcome constructive feedback so please contact support@researchfish.com if you would like to submit any further ideas. For a full list of changes, see our fortnightly release notes and roadmaps.

New Look Ups

Further Funding, Spin Outs and Intellectual Property outcome types will have a new search tool allowing researchers to easily search and add validated entries, enabling a quicker process for the users, reducing the burden, as well as improving data accuracy. Users will be addressed with Search bars instead of the original manual forms but will still have the option to manually add if they require.

Driven by our Members, for our Members

Researchfish Governance

Researchfish is different to other software companies in that it is driven by our Members, for our Members, through a Governance structure consisting of different working user groups. Everyone can raise items for consideration, irrespective of Group membership. Read more on our Blog Post.

Researchfish Steering

Reporting Subgroup

Board

The Researchfish Steering Board met on 5th December with a follow up webinar taking place on 19th December. You can access the recording, draft minutes and presentation slides on the RSB Documents Page here.

Main topics of discussion were; Post Researchfish 2019 Conference Feedback, further data sharing discussion, practicalities and next steps and Principal Reporter survey conclusion.

2019 RSB Dates:

- Thursday 28th March
- Thursday 13th June
- Thursday 12th September
- Thursday 5th December

We now have a new chair for the reporting subgroup and we would like to thank Nick Smith from CRUK for participating in this role.
If you would like to put forward any discussion topics you can contact the group at reporting-subgroup@researchfish.com

Communications Subgroup

The communications group has recently collaborated on a new document, as a result of the 2018 feedback (mentioned above) "How the Information is Used by your Funder". This will be hosted on the platform on the 'Award Details' page of the researcher interface as well as in the FAQ's and the subgroup's doc space. We will be blogging and tweeting with more information.

bloggingfish

How a New Researchfish Additional Question Set Supports Consistent Reporting of Patient and Public Involvement in Research

Events and Conferences

We are planning our [2019 events schedule](#) to try and meet as many of you as possible. If you know of an event that you feel is relevant and would like to see Researchfish representation please email [Michael Francis](#) - all suggestions welcome!

Research Organisation Award Test Accounts

Want to view Researchfish from the perspective of a researcher?
If you are a Research Organisation with full Researchfish membership, and would like a test award set up on your account to help you to better assist Award Holders, please contact support@researchfish.com. You will go through the invite process the same as a researcher and a view dummy test award from your 'My Awards' page.

In a guest blog post, Sarah Thomas, National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), discusses a new Researchfish set of additional questions (used at the request of the funders) that allows researchers to report how people have been involved in research and the difference that this involvement has made to their research. [Read the full blog post](#).

Keep an eye on our [blog updates](#) by subscribing to receive notifications of any new posts. We are always keen to feature our members so please send any blog ideas to enquiries@researchfish.com.

Preparing for the Multi-Funder Submission Period
4th February - 14th March 2019

Am I ready to submit?

Most funders will have now updated award details, sent your invites to new award holders and emailed your initial comms informing your award holders of the upcoming submission period.

However if you would like further guidance (both Funders and RO's) please visit the Set Up and Implementation and Support Documents of our site for useful resources such as Communication Plans, User Guides and Respondent Tables.

Extensions - We know that most funders would prefer not to have extensions but we understand there are sometimes extenuating circumstances. If towards the end of the submission period you would like to consider an extension, please inform us first so we can help and ensure we have our support team on hand (and have not yet skipped off into the sunset celebrating the end of the submission period!).

What happened at Church House, Westminster, back in November?

The short answer is the second international Strategy of Impact Conference! 200 Research professionals (funders, charities, research organisations, researchers, consultants and partners) travelled from all corners of the globe to discuss the strategy of research impact assessment, data sharing, and collaboration. Keynote speakers included Professor Graeme Reid, Chair of Science & Research Policy, University College London; Rebecca Endean, Strategy Director of UK Research and Innovation; and Dr Kathryn Graham of Alberta Innovates. Afternoon breakout sessions followed covering Tools & Methods; Impact Frameworks; Data, Interoperability and Customer Use Cases; and Best Practice and Collaboration. A complete round-up of the event including slides can be found here.

Support

Please visit our YouTube Channel to access some of our help & support videos such as locating awards, setting up submission periods or creating categories. Alternatively, view our help documents.

Webinars

As a funder, once the submission period is over, you have all this data to analyse, how do you get it out of the system? And what do you do with it it? As an RO, you may also wonder how this data can help you.
We will be running Post-Submission Webinars to

assist you with next steps. More details will come in the next newsletter in March/April.

[Contact Us](#)