Frequently Asked Questions: MSU Scholars (SciVal Experts/SciVal Funding)

(7/19/2013)

1. **What is MSU Scholars?**

   MSU Scholars is an MSU-specific instance of the web based tool, SciVal Experts/SciVal Funding, where MSU faculty, external faculty, and other interested, external parties (e.g. corporations and research funding organizations) can:

   a) View individual MSU researchers and identify their expertise at a glance with a visual profile and list of publications.

   b) Find potential collaborators within and across departments and colleges and across institutions by searching the profiles of faculty by keywords and concepts.

   c) Visualize a researcher’s co-author network.

   d) Search for MSU experts in any particular field by keywords or concepts.

   e) Visualize MSU research expertise and focus by department.

2. **Who can access MSU Scholars?**

   MSU Scholars is open to the public, and anyone can access department and faculty profiles to search for research activities and expertise by name, keywords or concepts.

3. **Who are included in MSU Scholars?**

   All tenure system and fixed-term faculty and academic specialists with research appointments are included in MSU Scholars. All those included must be paid through Michigan State University.

4. **If a faculty member has multiple appointments, under which college/department is he or she listed?**

   Each faculty member is listed under all academic units in which he or she has a formal appointment.

5. **What does it mean that MSU Scholars (SciVal Experts) has created a “profile” of my expertise?**

   By mining the text found in your profile entry (publication titles, publication abstracts), SciVal Experts automatically generates a “profile” or visualization of the relative use of different words and concepts to describe your research expertise. Keywords from your profile are mapped by the system to subject-specific thesauri to present concepts in a standardized way.

   Elsevier employs numerous thesauri based on several keywords and concepts. For a listing of disciplinary subject areas, keywords, and concepts, see:

6. **Will my whole CV be included in my MSU Scholars profile?**

   No. Currently MSU Scholars will focus solely on a list of publications profiled in Scopus for each faculty member. Whether other CV information will be added later will be evaluated as MSU becomes more familiar with the SciVal tools.

7. **Why are only some of my publications included in my MSU Scholars profile?**

   The list of publications in MSU Scholars for each faculty member is automatically generated by Elsevier’s database Scopus. While very large, Scopus is uneven in its coverage of different subject areas. It does not cover every journal, every issue of each journal, nor does it cover most books, book chapters, or other monographs. Thus, not all your publications may appear in your profile. MSU administrators understand that profiles are not expected to be complete, and they will not use the profiles for any kind of faculty evaluation. Whether other publications will be added later will be evaluated as MSU becomes more familiar with the SciVal tools.

8. **As an MSU faculty member or researcher included in MSU Scholars, is there anything I should do to validate my profile information?**

   You should check your profile to confirm that the publications listed are indeed yours and that there are no major errors. Missing publications cannot be added at this time. However, if publications listed are not yours, or there is another problem, please contact the MSU SciVal Implementation team at scival@msu.edu to get your profile corrected.

9. **How often is MSU Scholars updated?**

   Publications are refreshed in MSU Scholars by Scopus on a weekly basis.

10. **What other universities are using SciVal to create a profile tool like MSU Scholars, and can I see their faculty profiles too?**

   Many universities and research institutions nation- and world-wide are using SciVal Experts to create profiles. When viewing the “Find the Expert” page in MSU Scholars after searching a concept, last name, or free text keyword, you will see experts at MSU under the “Internal” heading (above the list of results). Click on the “Community” heading to see similar experts matching your query at other institutions that are also using SciVal Experts. Click on the “Direct2Experts” heading to see similar experts at other institutions that are using either SciVal or other research networking tools similar to SciVal. The list of institutions that are using SciVal Experts to create profiles can be accessed from the home page by clicking on the SciVal Experts Community. Likewise, the Direct2Experts link can also be accessed from the home page.
11. **What is the SciVal Funding module of MSU Scholars?**

SciVal Funding is an intelligence tool providing access to funding opportunities and awarded grant information. It provides access to a searchable database of more than 12,000 active opportunities, 2.25M awards (back to 2004), and 4,500 funding bodies. Through SciVal Funding, MSU faculty and researchers may choose to receive targeted emails with recommendations for relevant funding opportunities based on matches between the opportunity and the faculty member’s expertise profile. Faculty and researchers may choose to highlight keywords and subjects for which they want to receive funding opportunity information. Administrators at MSU may email opportunities to researchers, form research teams, and track researcher interest in the recommendations.

12. **Who will use MSU Scholars?**

   a) MSU faculty members and researchers will use the public version to search for identifying internal or external collaborators and experts in specific domains. They will use the Funding module to tailor searches and alerts about possible research funding opportunities to their research interests.

   b) MSU administrators will use the public version of MSU Scholars to view aggregated information about research and publication trends for individual faculty members, departments, and colleges. They may also search for internal or external institutional expertise to promote research or instructional collaboration. Administrators may also choose to send reminder alerts to faculty members about relevant research opportunities presented by SciVal Funding. They will not use MSU Scholars for individual faculty evaluation because the profiles are incomplete.

   c) External parties, including members of other academic institutions or corporations, can view MSU Scholars to search for expertise, collaborators, or partners among MSU faculty and researchers. MSU Business-CONNECT will also use the tool to link MSU faculty with business and industry.

13. **How do I get the best search results from MSU Scholars?**

To learn about the research of any specific faculty member or researcher at MSU, search by last name, using all or the first part of the name. To search by subject area, enter a keyword or phrase into the “By Concept” search box. This will direct you to a page listing related concepts and subject areas from which you can choose. Once your concept search is narrowed, all MSU experts whose profiles match your search criteria will be displayed by relevance. Clicking the plus sign next to each name will yield a list of publications for that researcher relevant to that concept. You may refine your search by adding related concepts listed on the right side of the page. Use the “By Free Text” search to enter any type of full text, such as an abstract or funding announcement, and it will be fingerprinted and matched with MSU expertise. Use Boolean logic (AND, OR, NOT) to combine terms for the concept or free text search. Only the top 50 results will be displayed from a full text search, but all results will be displayed for the concept and last name searches.
14. **How is the MSU Scholars SciVal Funding module different from Community of Science’s new Pivot?**

SciVal Funding identifies funding opportunities based on the profile of each faculty member in MSU Scholars that is automatically generated from publication information from Scopus. The Community of Science Pivot system generates profiles for researchers by scanning web sites and other databases of publications.

15. **Does MSU have a subscription to the Scopus database itself?**

Yes. MSU has a subscription to Scopus through the MSU Libraries. You can access the database through the MSU Libraries page [http://er.lib.msu.edu/](http://er.lib.msu.edu/)

16. **Why is MSU choosing to implement these tools?**

There is a sense of urgency to implementing MSU Scholars as part of a set of faculty profiling tools since:

   a) The Office of Science and Technology Policy is developing a shared researcher profiling system known as **STAR METRICS**.
   b) STAR METRICS is developing a [dashboard](http://er.lib.msu.edu/) that shows input and output related to federal funding.
   c) The University Research Corridor is negotiating a license for SciVal Experts which would link the profiling systems from multiple institutions in the state of Michigan.

17. **Are there training materials or documentation available online about MSU Scholars?**

Documentation is available at the MSU Scholars site through the MSU Office of Planning and Budgets. [http://opb.msu.edu/msuinfo/MSUScholarsHelpandFAQs.asp](http://opb.msu.edu/msuinfo/MSUScholarsHelpandFAQs.asp)