

Case Study: Aarhus University

Creating more competitive submissions
for funding application success



Elsevier's Research Intelligence solutions answer the most pressing challenges researchers and research managers face, with innovative solutions that improve your ability to establish, execute and evaluate research strategy and performance.



MS. PERNILLE HAMBURGER GRØNGAARD,
Research Librarian at the Research Support Office

“In order to maintain Aarhus University’s strong reputation, we have to be constantly ahead of the research curve. The bibliometric tools we had from five years ago might have worked then, but they are slowly becoming obsolete. And without the ability to attract the necessary funds, the lifeblood of our research will be cut off. What we needed was a platform that could provide us the data analysis and research intelligence to help us make effective funding applications.”



AARHUS UNIVERSITY

Executive summary

Aarhus University is one of Denmark’s largest public universities, consistently placed in the top 100 best universities in global rankings. To further improve its university standing, the institution implemented a program to help win more research funding in an increasingly competitive landscape.

Aarhus University’s Research Support Office chose SciVal to help accurately assess the quality of individual researchers, and create reports that

helped potential applicants and their respective departments to make better decisions as to which funding calls they should aim.

Ms. Pernille Hamburger Grøngaard, Research Librarian at the Research Support Office, said that the data and metrics offered by SciVal made it easier for her and her team to analyze their researchers’ performances with a range of metrics, leading to more competitive submissions for funding calls.



ELSEVIER

Aarhus University is a highly distinguished public university located in Aarhus, Denmark. Established in 1928, it is Denmark's second oldest university.

Background

Part of the elite Coimbra Group of European universities, Aarhus University is one of the few to hold the Triple Crown accreditations: EFMD (European Foundation for Management Development) EQUIS, the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), and the Association of MBAs (AMBA).

The university has consistently placed in the top 100 best universities in reputable rankings. It was 64rd in the 2018 Shanghai Ranking and 111th among the largest universities in the world according to the Leiden Ranking. In terms of research, Aarhus University has been evaluated “excellent” in the areas of Biology, Physics, Mathematics and Political Science by the 2010 CHE Excellence Ranking.

Challenge

To meet its research targets, the university's Research Support Office is tasked with successfully identifying and winning research funds. The department relies on 27 staff to drive its daily operations, including 15 fundraisers, four project administrators, three policy advisers and one research librarian.

The team faces two main challenges with regards to securing funding. The first is that the research landscape in Europe has evolved to become more multi-disciplinary, which makes submitting suitable researchers for a funding call more complex. Secondly, the competition for the funding calls has also intensified, so the team needs to ensure that their researchers are supported with evidence to help differentiate them from external candidates.

Solution



“With SciVal’s wide range of metrics, we were able to make accurate assessments of the impact of our researchers. FWCI is especially important to us as it gives us the opportunity to stress the researcher’s impact across their fields of research.”

Pernille and her colleagues chose SciVal to help them meet their department’s objectives. SciVal gave them access to the performance of over 12,000 research institutions worldwide, and the metrics needed to derive meaningful insights from the data.

Pernille describes the key turning point that influenced the decision to purchase SciVal, “There was a research team that initially decided to not pursue a particular funding call. They believed that they did not possess the necessary qualifications. However, when we looked through and analyzed their research, we found that they were strong candidates. We showed them their performance metrics and convinced them to apply for the funding, which was eventually awarded to them. The entire process proved, without a doubt, that a platform that offers a systematic approach to our data was absolutely necessary.”

Today, SciVal provides her with detailed summaries about researchers, which includes:

- A citation report highlighting the most influential papers, a list of prestigious journals and the publications in top journal percentiles.
- Metrics such as h-index, citations per publications and field-weighted citation impact (FWCI) to assess the researcher’s influence compared to others.
- Drilling from SciVal into Scopus to identify which authors are citing the researcher’s work and the level of their research impact.
- Identification of current and potential collaborating researchers and institutions relevant to the funding call.

“The Elsevier ecosystem makes the transfer of information seamless. We were able to extract faculty data from Pure and export it to SciVal for analysis. This means that we do not have to waste time on converting data to different formats or any other technical issues, and focus on our day-to-day tasks.”

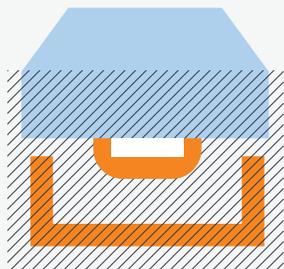
Conclusion

With Elsevier’s solutions, the Research Support Office has more clarity and insight to make better decisions with regards to funding applications. “SciVal has empowered us to take an evidence-based approach to obtaining more research funds. It has given our team the confidence to determine if a particular researcher should apply for a funding call or wait for another.

We are able to show researchers whether they have any gaps in their publication histories and citation flows. In addition, we can also offer more strategic advice as to which institutions they can partner with,” said Pernille. The Research Support Office plans to extend its research analyses to more faculties, starting with the health sciences, which consists of 19 institutes and departments.

Pernille and her colleagues were also able to work more efficiently with Elsevier’s Research Intelligence solutions. The department recently saw a surge in metric requests, but the office could accommodate them by performing the analyses rapidly. This is mainly thanks to SciVal’s integration with Pure, which manages Aarhus University’s research data, and Scopus, Elsevier’s abstract and citation database of peer-reviewed literature.

SciVal is based on output and usage data from Scopus, the world’s largest abstract and citation database for peer-reviewed publications. SciVal uses Scopus data from 1996 to current date, which covers:



48 million
publication records



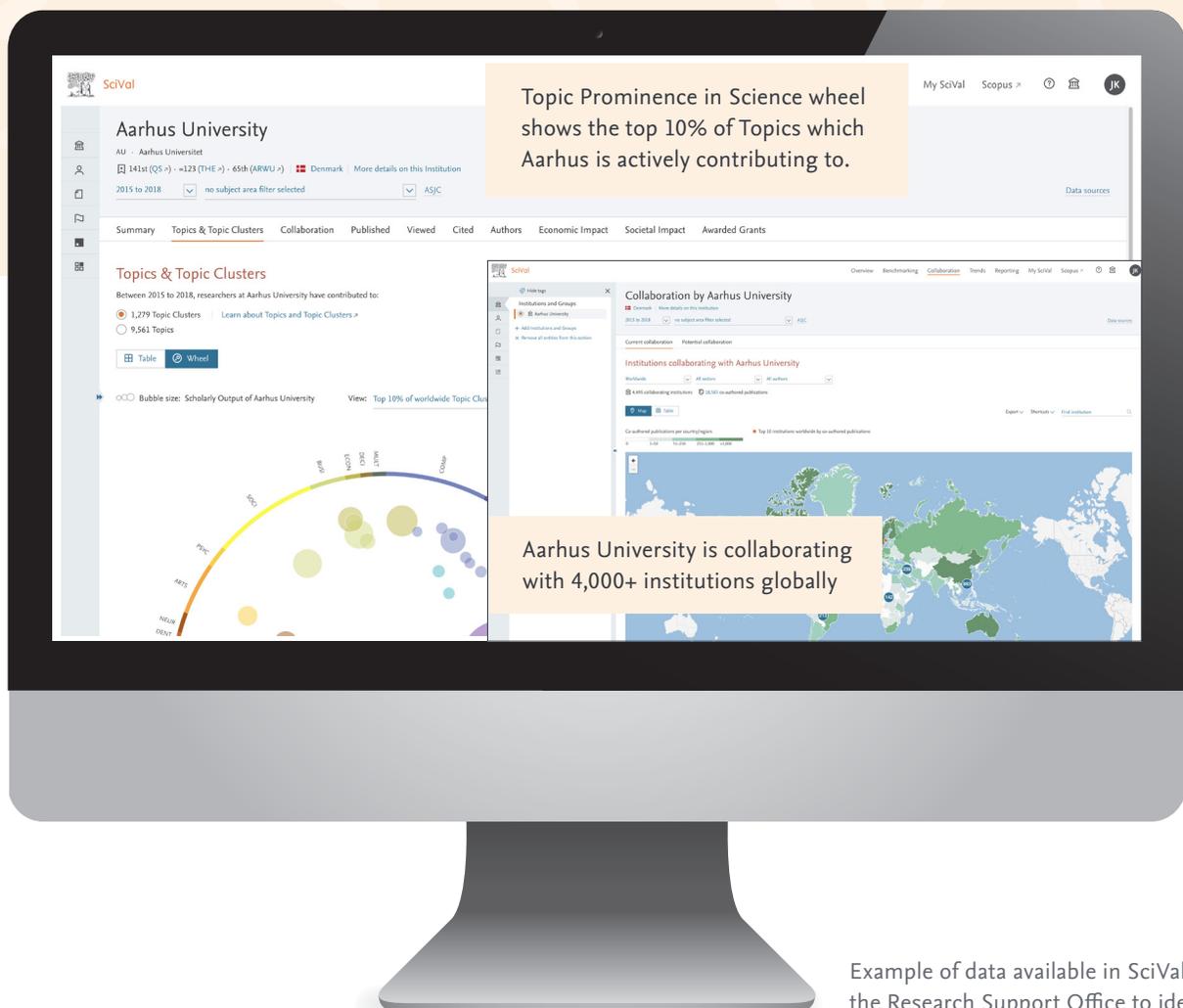
22,000+
journals



5,000+
publishers

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— Ms. Pernille Hamburger Grøngaard,
Research Librarian at the Research Support Office



Example of data available in SciVal to help the Research Support Office to identify and evaluate their researchers for potential grant applications.

Research Intelligence

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