The IET's *Inspec Analytics* Research Intelligence Tool Leverages Ringgold Identify Database to Standardize and Enhance Organizational Data

Company
The Institution of Engineering and Technology

Location
United Kingdom

About
Inspec, the Institution of Engineering and Technology's research database, has been aggregating and curating data in engineering and physics for over 50 years, launching the Inspec A & I database in 1969. Inspec now includes over 22 million records and works with a great many publishers and over 4,500 journals.

The IET and Ringgold have been partners for over 10 years. Inspec uses the Ringgold ID to standardize organizations in affiliations in Inspec records.

The Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) is a multidisciplinary professional engineering institution formed in 2006 by a merger of the Institution of Electrical Engineers and the Institution of Incorporated Engineers. The IET's renowned research database, Inspec, has been delivering access to engineering intelligence since 1969. Inspec has become the authoritative resource for accessing scientific literature across engineering, physics, and computer science.

Looking to better understand what information their customers needed to help them define their research goals and strategy, the IET team embarked on an effort to directly engage with their customer base. A key learning from this outreach effort was that their customers needed to have greater insight into global and local trends in research output. They also learned that their customers wanted to better understand their collaborations and more quickly and easily identify candidates for their recruiting efforts. In addition, they discovered their university customers wanted to know what they had published over the years, and in which areas as well as how they ranked in comparison with other universities in terms of output by subject.

Based on this input and feedback, the Inspec team started to develop a visually intuitive application that would show organizational output, author collaborations and global, regional, and national trends in engineering. They soon discovered that a key requirement of creating such a tool was the accurate and consistent presentation of organizations and their affiliations. However, the IET also realized that much of the abstract and affiliation data feeding into Inspec was unstructured and messy.

Ringgold's standardized and enhanced organizational data provides "backbone" of data connections

A key element in the development of this new application, Inspec Analytics, was the use of semantic technology to connect the abstracts using keywords, subject classifications, publication titles, and author information. However, they needed a way to standardize organizational affiliations to link everything together. Enter the Ringgold Identify Database.

The Ringgold Identify Database helps publishers, intermediaries, and funders normalize and disambiguate organizational data. With over 600,000 organizational identifiers and metadata records, the Ringgold Identify Database is an industry leader, providing an expertly curated view of organization data to help stakeholders improve data quality, drive strategic making, and support data interoperability across the scholarly communication ecosystem.

The Results

The Inspec team was able to develop Inspec Analytics, a powerful research intelligence tool. Using semantic mapping, Inspec's technology helps users to identify trends and patterns in global engineering and physics research. This helps users to monitor the research output of an organization and see how it ranks globally, compare organizations to identify strengths and areas for growth, identify potential collaborators for research and development, and explore global trends by subject over time.

Using Ringgold Identify Database saved the Inspec team a great deal of time and energy, allowing them to focus on their own areas of expertise. Without Ringgold Identify Database, the organizational data in Inspec Analytics would have been inconsistently linked to schools, colleges, departments – and very difficult to make sense of. "It would have been much harder to build Inspec Analytics without Ringgold Identify Database's organizational data," said Tim Aitken, Snr Product Manager for Inspec. Users can now look for corporations that are potential strategic partners and similarly corporations can identify academic partners by seeing what is being published in key areas.

Inspec Analytics has been a big success, with traffic and users increasing consistently. Users receive Inspec Analytics as part of their subscription to Inspec and renewals are strong because the service provides value. Individual users say that they love the product, that it provides insights and helps with decision making, and librarians have said they can't wait to show it to faculty.

Using the Ringgold Identify Database meant that the Inspec team didn't need to do any of the work on organizations themselves, saving them time and resources.

The Ringgold Identify Database was used to create five main areas: Academic, Corporate, Government, Health and Hospitals, and Other, enabling users to focus on the areas of research most important to them.

The classifications, location information, and detailed hierarchies helped Inspec to aggregate organizational information from schools, departments, institutions, etc., and map them into clear organizational structures, allowing users to find what they need easily. Users could now look for all the institutions within a group, for example the University of California System and compare them, their output, collaborations, etc. to see which organizations have published and at what frequency.

"The Ringgold Identify Database gives us a backbone, a well-known and trusted structure from which we can build and provide more functionality around organizations."

The Inspec team found that the detailed hierarchies in Ringgold Identify Database were key to the mapping process - articles were mapped at the department, school, or institution level and then rolled up to the main organization, helping users of Inspec Analytics to compare the overall output of one university to another. The Inspec team acknowledged that Ringgold Identify Database provided a huge step up, noting that using Ringgold Identify Database's structure and the detailed Inspec subject classifications together proved very powerful.

Content continues to be ingested into Inspec every day, with a Ringgold ID allocated to the affiliations and then mapped using the Ringgold Identify Database hierarchies. The Ringgold hierarchies and data are very rich, providing the potential to develop more functionality for users of Inspec Analytics in the future.

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