

Can researchers find the support their institution already offers?

A source-linked audit of publicly discoverable research and publishing support across 50 U.S. R1 institutions, with the complete 187-institution sampling frame preserved.

187

R1 institutions in scope

50

published evidence profiles

99

official source records

Read the boundary first. The 50 profiles are a calibration subset, not a probability sample. The study does not rank institutions, measure service quality, or estimate national prevalence.

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Start with a public pathway, not a score.

For researchers

Use a profile to locate official services for evidence search, writing, publishing, integrity, open access, and data stewardship.

For libraries

Use the blank audit record to test whether an unfamiliar researcher can discover support from public pages.

For research offices

Trace fragmented pathways and decide which official pages should connect more clearly.

For analysts

Use CSV or JSON for reproducibility. Preserve missing scores and the calibration boundary.

Do not use this as a league table. A missing public signal is a discoverability observation. It is not evidence that a university lacks the service, and a one-point difference is not proof that one institution is better.

Use the evidence in this order

- 01 Open the institution profile and read its scope note.
- 02 Inspect the six dimension notes before the composite.
- 03 Open the cited official pages and confirm the recorded observation.
- 04 Use the version history or correction route when evidence has changed.

A complete frame and a bounded reviewed subset.

Sampling frame

The universe is the 187 institutions in the Carnegie Classifications 2025 Research Activity Designations. Manusights does not recreate the R1 classification.

Published subset

50 records completed the calibration evidence contract. The subset is not random or representative. The other 137 records remain visible and unscored.

Evidence contract

- 01 Begin with official library, research office, graduate school, and scholarly communication pages.
 - 02 Record an institution-owned HTTPS URL, page observation, review date, and supported dimensions.
 - 03 Publish all six dimension assessments and keep each score within its stated maximum.
 - 04 Keep absent public evidence distinct from evidence that a service is absent.
 - 05 Version accepted corrections instead of silently rewriting the record.
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Automated contract tests cover identity uniqueness, score ranges, six-dimension completeness, evidence URL presence, export completeness, and release metadata. They do not prove that a page remains live after its recorded access date.

DESCRIPTIVE FINDINGS

What appears inside the reviewed subset.

84.1

mean composite

84.0

median composite

71-93

observed range

These figures describe only the 50 reviewed profiles. They are not estimates for all R1 institutions.

Average dimension score in the reviewed subset



24 exemplary-band profiles

Composite scores of 85 to 100 in this calibration subset.

26 strong-band profiles

Composite scores of 70 to 84 in this calibration subset.

Selection effects matter. The reviewed subset clusters at the high end. That pattern may reflect which institutions entered calibration and must not be generalized to the unreviewed universe.

Audit one public support pathway.

Choose one institution and complete the record from its public pages. Keep private service details out of shared copies.

1. Institution and starting page

Institution, campus, official starting URL, date checked

2. Researcher task

What is the researcher trying to do, and where would they reasonably begin?

3. Six-dimension record

Findability, evidence support, manuscript development, publishing support, integrity, and access or data stewardship

4. Source trail

Official page title, URL, section, observation, and which dimensions it supports

5. Discoverability gap

What could not be found publicly? State this as a search observation, not proof of absence.

6. Action and recheck

What connection or page could improve the pathway? When should the evidence be checked again?

Keep the boundary attached when you share it.

Sampling frame. [Carnegie Classifications 2025 Research Activity Designations](#). Carnegie-derived fields retain CC BY-NC-SA 4.0 terms.

Assessment evidence. 99 institution-owned source records are included in the JSON distribution and institution profiles. Each record carries an observation and supported dimensions.

Methodology and data. [Methodology](#) | [CSV](#) | [JSON](#) | [Version history](#)

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Suggested citation

Manusights. (2026). Research Publishing Support Observatory: public calibration study (Version 2026.09-public-calibration-1). <https://manusights.com/resources/research-publishing-support-index>

Limits that must travel with the result

- The 50 profiles are not a probability sample.
- Scores concern public discoverability, not service quality, research performance, or prestige.
- Unreviewed institutions have no inferred score.
- Web evidence can change after the recorded access date.
- Outside validation and institutional correction records are supplementary, not prerequisites for public use.

Evidence digest: e19357ab774ba4f8dacbcd82f9a56bbc339ebcaac6bfe4f50fc73c7a6460bb0c