Esploro Essentials: Orientation
**Introduction to Esploro**

Esploro is a research information management system, for all the different types of research outputs created at your institution. Research outputs come in many forms. Researchers at your institution present at conferences, publish articles, write screenplays, and produce data sets, just to give a few examples. The information about a particular research output, together with any associated files, is called a research asset. For example, if a researcher from your institution delivered a PowerPoint presentation at a conference, the corresponding research asset would contain the metadata, such as the name and date of the conference, the lecturer and the topic. It may also contain digital files of the content, such as the PowerPoint file and an audio recording of the presentation, but these digital files are optional. Esploro tracks relationships among your research assets and other entities, such as researchers, academic units, external organizations, and grants. Esploro also enables linking between different research assets, such as a journal article to the dataset with the data that was utilized in the research that led to the article, or to the patent that was generated from it.

Your institution's collection of research assets is called its Repository.
When a research asset has been submitted but has not yet been approved by a repository manager, it is called a research deposit. A research deposit becomes part of the repository after it is approved by a repository manager.

Research assets can also be added through several methods of automatic repository population: Smart Migration, Smart Expansion, and Smart Harvesting. These are explained in other training videos.

Repository Managers, Research Office staff, and Research Librarians use the Research Hub. This is where you manage your research repository and your researcher information, track and analyze research activities, configure settings, and so forth. You also control what appears in the Research Portal.

The Research Portal presents your institution’s research output to the world. Visitors can browse collections. They can also search for research assets and researchers, using facets to refine the results. When viewing a research asset, visitors can access files and links that you make available to the public.

Researcher Profiles feature your institution’s researchers and their research. On their profiles, Researchers can also display their Activities, such as teaching courses or mentoring students, as well as their ongoing research projects, Media mentions, and Awards. The researcher profiles are easily edited by the researchers themselves, by a proxy, or by other research staff. Training for Researchers can be found in its own section in the Knowledge center. Showcasing researcher profiles and research assets encourages collaboration within your institution and with researchers from other institutions.

Esploro comes with a flexible and easy-to-use Analytics interface. This can help answer questions and give insight into your institution’s research. It can also help you manage the repository.

This series of videos will give you the essentials you need to start working with the Esploro research information management system.