Fingerprints

*This guide is for anyone with an academic profile in Pure.*

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# What is it?

* Pure will generate what it calls a *fingerprint* on certain types of record, including your person profile and outputs.
* It does this by mining the text in certain fields and matching it against a *thesaurus* containing thousands of *concepts*.
* These concepts that make up your fingerprint are then presented on the public portal as a collection of doughnut icons.
* On the landing page for the record in question, a summary fingerprint is shown.
* The more complete the doughnut, the closer the match the record has to that concept.
* If the user clicks on the *Fingerprint* section in of the public record, they can see the full fingerprint.
* Concepts in the full fingerprint are grouped by *domains* (broad subject areas).



* If someone clicks on one of the concepts on the portal, they will see how many other records in Edge Hill’s Pure share that concept.
	+ Clicking on one of those stats will take the person to a list of those relevant records.
	+ For example, they (or you) can find other people who might be working on the same topics.



# Curate your fingerprint

* While you can’t add your own concepts to the fingerprint, you can influence it.
* You need to [log in to the Pure backend](https://research.edgehill.ac.uk/admin) to do this.
* Any changes you make will begin feeding through to the portal immediately but the exact timescale will depend on what else the system is processing at the same time – the change could be public instantly or it could take a little while.
* Bear in mind that fingerprints will change as you add new information to the system so curation is not something that only needs doing once – you should do it periodically.

## Change the wording of certain fields

* This is simply adding relevant text to the [fingerprint source fields](#_Fingerprint_sources) (below), to try and skew the fingerprint towards particular concepts.
* For example, tweaking your *research interests* in your profile, or *descriptions* on certain other content types, to include key phrases.
* You might not be able to do this for everything though – the title and abstract for a research output are not usually things you should alter.
* We can’t provide a list of concepts for you to target so this approach might require some trial and error.

## Omit a concept

* You can open the record in question in the Pure backend, go to *Fingerprints* down the left-hand side. This shows all concepts associated with that record.
* Hover over a concept and you will see its *weight* as a percentage (the number behind the doughnut) and its subject *domain*. You will also see a red X icon.



* Clicking the red X icon will move the concept into an *omitted concepts* section down the page.
* The omitted concept will be removed from that record – it will no longer be shown on it, nor will it be returned in a fingerprint concept search.
* The omitted concept is not deleted though – merely hidden.
	+ Hover over it and you will see a green + icon. Clicking that will move the concept back into the *included concepts* section.



* You can even omit an entire domain.



**Note:** omitting concepts will generally only affect the specific record you are changing. The exception to this is where a content type is influenced by connected records, as outlined below.

For example: omitting a concept on one output will not affect the fingerprint on other outputs but it will affect your profile fingerprint.

# Fingerprint sources

Fingerprints are generated against the following content types in Pure, based on the specified fields.

* **Profile**: research interests. Also influenced by the outputs and prizes linked to you, as per below.
* **Outputs**: title and abstract (both must be present).
* **Projects**: any *description* field present. Also influenced by the outputs and awards linked to the project.
* **Awards**: any *description* field present. If no award description text is available, the fingerprint will be based solely on the description from the related project, provided there is one.
* **Prizes**: any *description* field present.
* **Facilities/equipment**: any *description* field present. Also influenced by the outputs and projects linked to the facility/equipment. If no description text is available, the fingerprint will be based solely on related outputs, provided there are any.
* **Organisational unit**: based on the outputs linked to the department/faculty in question.
* **Whole university**: all research outputs from the past 5 years. This fingerprint is shown on the portal home page.