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Enhancements to HeinOnline Author Profiles

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This Conference Proceeding is brought to you for free and open access by the Law Library at Osgoode Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Librarian Publications & Presentations by an authorized administrator of Osgoode Digital Commons.
Today I’m going to talk to you about a new feature that was recently introduced as part of the HeinOnline Author Profiles.
Some off you may be familiar with Author Profiles in HeinOnline. But if you’re not ... the next time you find yourself in the Law Journal Library database do a search for your favourite author and click on the hypertext link for that author’s name. I’m using Kent McNeil as an example here.
Clicking that link takes you to Professor McNeil’s Author Profile. Here you see his affiliation, academic title and some statistics based on the articles found in HeinOnline.
If you’re interested in having your own Author Profile we’d be happy to set one up for you. And for those who already have an author profile, please note that you can now enhance your profile by adding your photograph, biography, social media links, email, etc.
Here’s an example of an enhanced author profile for Mary Whisner from the University of Washington School of Law. Isn’t it lovely?
Of course, you can also do both of these things yourself by providing your information to HeinOnline and requesting that they create an Author Profile for you. Or, if you already have one, asking to have your existing profile upgraded. This can be done by clicking the ‘edit’ icon that you’ll find at the top of your author page in HeinOnline. Or, again, leave it to us and we’ll make the necessary arrangements.
Author Profiles are great, but the feature that I really wanted to draw your attention to today is this new “Explore This Author” button. HeinOnline describes this new feature as, “an interactive tool which uses metadata, natural language processing, and machine learning to analyze author data and identify relationships between them.” Note that this feature is still in Beta and the folks at HeinOnline are very interested to know what you might think about it. I’ll provide details for how you can provide feedback at the end of this talk.
When you click that “Explore This Author” button you end up at this rather minimalist looking screen. The “explore” part is found in the facets to the right of that empty blue circle: topics; cited by; cites to; related authors; publications, etc. This may differ depending on the author you’re looking at.
Clicking the “topics” facet, for example, brings up a list of the current top ten topics that this author has written about. Here: government, common law, Indigenous peoples, etc.
Once you’ve selected a topic you’ll see a list of articles written by the author. Here for example are the papers Professor McNeil wrote about Indigenous peoples. From here you can then click through to the article and do the usual HeinOnline things you can do.
Let’s say you’re familiar with one author’s work and would like to see articles written by other authors working in similar areas of interest. The “related authors” facet identifies and makes those connections for you.
I happen to know that John Burrows has written about Indigenous peoples so I might click on his name ...
... and then click the “Explore This Author” button under his name.
Now, by clicking the “topics” facet, you can compare and perhaps click through to see the articles that Professor Burrows has written on Indigenous peoples.
This seems useful, but one thing I might recommend to HeinOnline is to have a way to get to related authors from a particular topic. That way you wouldn’t have to guess which authors had written about certain topics and you could more quickly discover related authors who had written, in this case, on Indigenous peoples.
So, let us know if you’d like us to set up an Author Profile for you or enhance an Author Profile that you may already have. And, if you want to do this yourself, the necessary links are shown here. And do have a look at this new “Explore This Author” feature and contact HeinOnline with any feedback you might have.