

Following our December issue of interfaces The Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences has been working with the Higher Education Academy (HEA, the UK Forensic science Education Group (UKFSEG), Staffordshire University and Jorum on a collaborative venture to deliver an online searchable undergraduate and post graduate research database. We are pleased to announce the launch of this excellent and valuable resource.

Making Student Forensic-Based Research Available to the Wider Community

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This article is to announce the launch of an exciting, new and free of charge tool created for practitioners, professionals and academics to collaborate and disseminate research internationally. This tool is a searchable online, open-access repository of undergraduate and postgraduate (non-PhD) forensic-based research.

This bank of research, aims to provide a valuable resource of information and intelligence, which was previously inaccessible to caseworkers and forensic science providers (police and commercial). This repository also serves to:

- Provide a platform of institutional collaborations and networks across academia and industry;
- Support research and development strategy in the forensic arena;
- Provide opportunity to facilitate the use of standard approaches to the research and in doing so make the data generated more robust for its use in the courts;
- Minimise research repetition and build larger statistically valid datasets for use and application to support casework;
- Provide an easy searchable database for a wide range of forensic related topics as part of student projects.

The repository is hosted and accessible through an educational resource sharing organisation, Jorum (<http://find.jorum.ac.uk/>). Higher Education Institutions (HEI) can register (for free) with Jorum to upload appropriate theses that meet fixed criteria (see '[Criteria for Submission of Thesis](#)') and are protected under a Creative Commons License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nd/4.0/>).

The FAQs section of the 'Criteria for Submission of Thesis' document contain further information. The success of this database lies with the engagement of HEIs to submit appropriate theses to facilitate the expansion of the range of disciplines accessible to the forensic community. In addition, constructive feedback from the community will be pivotal in continuously developing this transnational resource, which is already seeing downloads globally.