

Symplectic Elements Upgrade: UI and Navigation Changes from 6.21 to 7.2

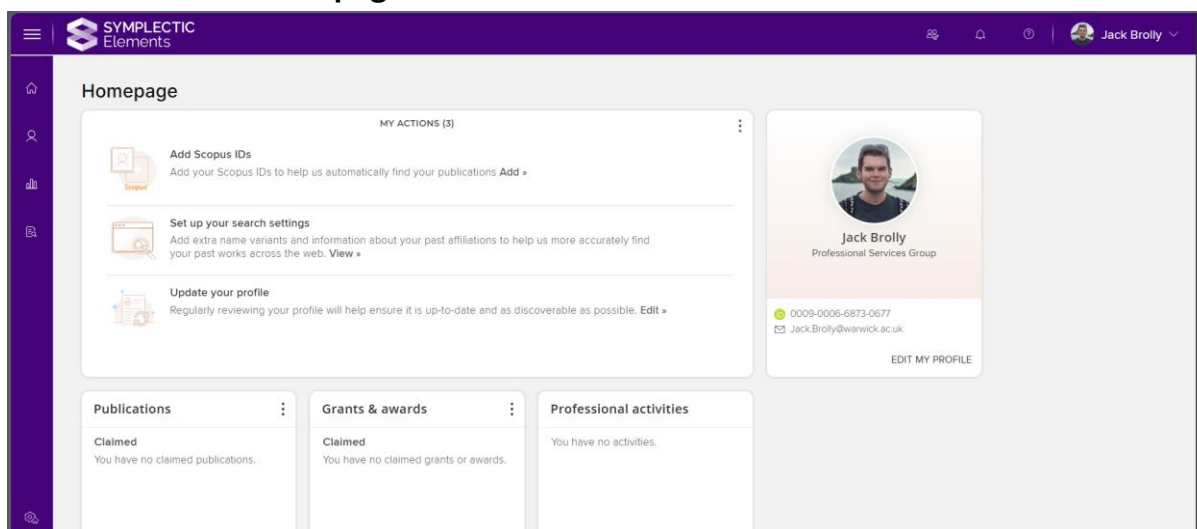
Purpose of this note

This note summarises the main visible user interface and navigation changes between Symplectic Elements 6.21, which is currently used in PROD, and Symplectic Elements 7.2, which is currently available in TEST.

The purpose is to explain what has moved, what has changed, and what appears to have stayed broadly the same from an end-user perspective.

Please note that the screenshots from TEST show the newer 7.2 layout using a lighter purple theme. When PROD is upgraded, the system is expected to retain the darker purple branding currently used in PROD. The key change for users is therefore not primarily the colour scheme, but the updated layout and navigation structure.

1. Current PROD homepage in Elements 6.21



Current PROD homepage in Elements 6.21, showing the dark purple top banner and existing homepage layout.

In the current PROD version, users land on a homepage with a dark purple banner across the top of the screen. The Symplectic Elements logo appears in the top-left, while user information and icons are shown along the top-right.

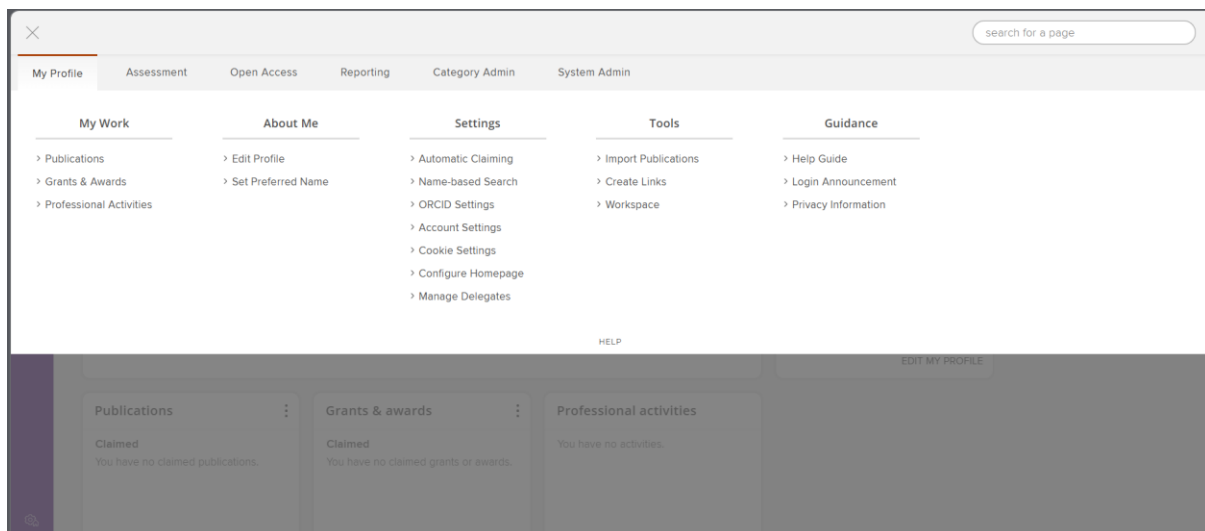
The homepage includes familiar cards such as:

- My Actions
- Publications
- Grants & awards
- Professional activities
- User profile summary

This version uses a combination of the top banner, left-hand icon bar and hamburger menu to access different areas of the system.

From an end-user perspective, this is the current layout users are familiar with before the upgrade.

2. Current PROD menu overlay in Elements 6.21



Current PROD 6.21 menu overlay, showing how pages are currently grouped under My Profile, Assessment, Open Access, Reporting, Category Admin and System Admin.

In Elements 6.21, users access many areas of the system through the large menu overlay. This overlay is opened from the menu icon and displays broad tabs across the top of the screen, including:

- My Profile
- Assessment
- Open Access
- Reporting
- Category Admin
- System Admin

Within the **My Profile** tab, pages are grouped into columns such as:

- My Work
- About Me
- Settings

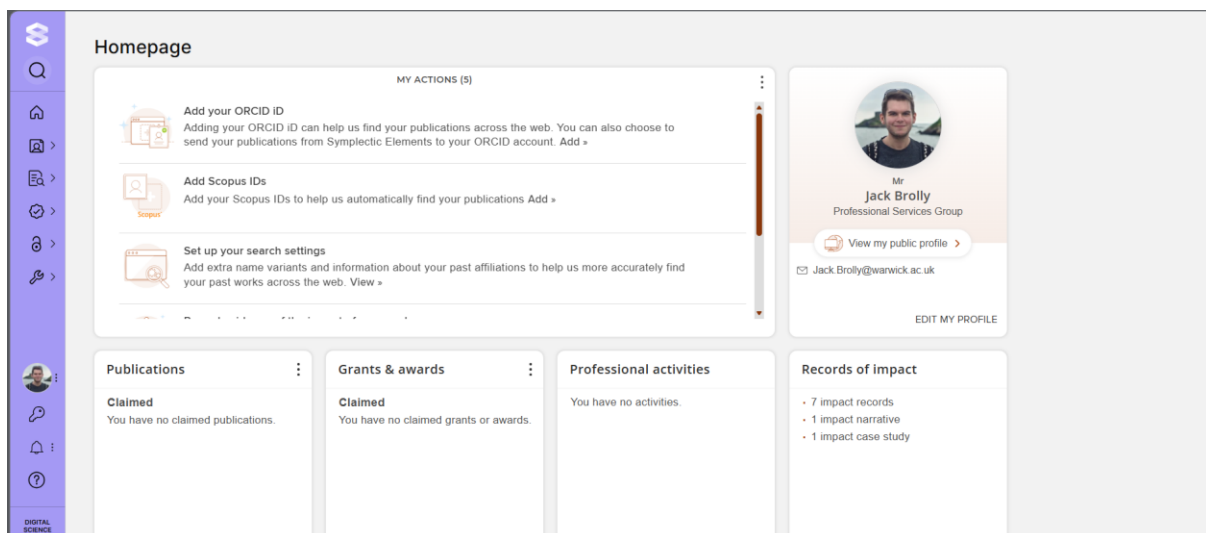
- Tools
- Guidance

For example, in the current version:

- Publications, Grants & Awards and Professional Activities sit under **My Work**
- Edit Profile sits under **About Me**
- ORCID Settings and Name-based Search sit under **Settings**
- Import Publications, Create Links and Workspace sit under **Tools**

This menu structure is one of the main areas that changes in the upgraded interface.

3. New TEST homepage in Elements 7.2



TEST homepage in Elements 7.2, showing the refreshed homepage layout and left-hand navigation style.

In Elements 7.2, the homepage has been refreshed. The homepage still performs the same broad purpose and continues to show familiar information, including:

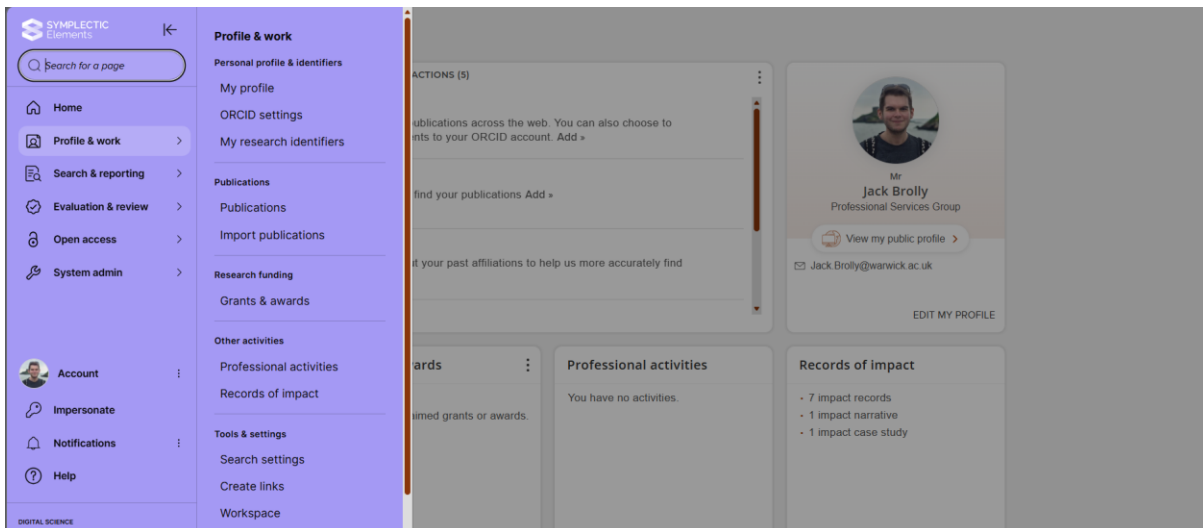
- My Actions
- Publications
- Grants & awards
- Professional activities
- Records of impact, where enabled
- User profile summary

The cards are presented in a cleaner and more modern layout, but the overall purpose of the homepage remains the same. Users can still see profile-related prompts and key activity summaries.

The **My Actions** section remains available, although the number of actions displayed may vary depending on the user, environment configuration, and whether certain actions have already been completed. For example, one environment may show actions relating to ORCID, Scopus IDs, search settings or profile updates, while another may show fewer actions.

The profile card has also been updated visually. It still shows key user information, including name, group or department, email address and public profile link. Where connected, identifiers such as ORCID iD are also displayed more clearly.

4. New TEST navigation in Elements 7.2



TEST navigation in Elements 7.2, showing the new left-hand navigation and the Profile & work section.

The most significant change in Elements 7.2 is the navigation structure.

In the upgraded version, the previous large menu overlay is replaced by a more structured left-hand navigation panel. The main navigation sections are now displayed down the left-hand side of the screen, including:

- Home
- Profile & work
- Search & reporting
- Evaluation & review

- Open access
- System admin

The main area users will need to become familiar with is **Profile & work**. This section brings together many of the pages that were previously accessed through the old **My Profile** tab and its related columns.

In the TEST 7.2 screenshot, **Profile & work** includes:

- My profile
- ORCID settings
- My research identifiers
- Publications
- Import publications
- Grants & awards
- Professional activities
- Records of impact
- Search settings
- Create links
- Workspace

This means that functionality has not necessarily disappeared, but the route to access it has changed.

What has moved?

The table below gives a rough mapping of where familiar areas appear to have moved between Elements 6.21 and Elements 7.2.

Current area in Elements 6.21	New area in Elements 7.2
My Profile	Profile & work
My Work > Publications	Profile & work > Publications
My Work > Grants & Awards	Profile & work > Grants & awards
My Work > Professional Activities	Profile & work > Professional activities

Current area in Elements 6.21 New area in Elements 7.2

About Me > Edit Profile	Profile & work > My profile
Settings > ORCID Settings	Profile & work > ORCID settings
Settings > Name-based Search	Profile & work > Search settings
Tools > Import Publications	Profile & work > Import publications
Tools > Create Links	Profile & work > Create links
Tools > Workspace	Profile & work > Workspace
Assessment	Evaluation & review
Reporting	Search & reporting
Open Access	Open access
System Admin / Category Admin	System admin, depending on permissions

The main message is that the old My Profile menu structure has effectively been brought into the new Profile & work section.

What has changed?

The main changes are visual and navigational.

Elements 6.21 uses a top banner, a left-hand icon bar and a large menu overlay. Users access many pages by opening the menu and selecting from grouped columns.

Elements 7.2 uses a more modern left-hand navigation model. The key sections are displayed more clearly in the side menu, and related pages appear within those sections.

The page search function is also more prominent in the new layout. In 6.21, “search for a page” appears within the menu overlay. In 7.2, it is built into the left-hand navigation area, making it easier for users to find pages if they are unsure where something has moved.

The homepage has also been refreshed. The same broad cards and profile summary areas remain, but the styling, spacing and layout are more modern.

What has stayed the same?

From the screenshots, the core end-user areas appear to remain broadly the same.

Users should still be able to access:

- Publications
- Grants & awards
- Professional activities
- Records of impact
- Profile details
- ORCID settings
- Research identifiers, such as Scopus IDs
- Search settings
- Import publications
- Create links
- Workspace
- Open access areas, where relevant
- Search and reporting areas, where relevant
- Admin areas, depending on permissions

The homepage also remains the main landing page and continues to display action prompts, profile information and research-related summary cards.

The main change is therefore not that the system is losing key functionality, but that some functionality is now reached through a different navigation route.

Key user-facing message

Following the upgrade, Symplectic Elements will have an updated layout and navigation. The main areas you use, such as publications, grants and awards, professional activities, ORCID settings, search settings and profile details, will still be available. However, some pages have moved into the new left-hand navigation. Most profile and research activity pages can now be found under Profile & work. You can also use Search for a page if you are unsure where to find something.

Key internal summary

The upgrade from Elements 6.21 to 7.2 is mainly a layout and navigation change from an end-user perspective.

The most important change is that the old menu overlay, and My Profile structure are replaced by the new left-hand navigation, particularly the Profile & work section.

The system should still contain the same key areas, but users may need guidance on where to find them after the upgrade. The most useful instruction for most users will be:

Go to Profile & work for profile details, ORCID settings, research identifiers, publications, grants and awards, professional activities, records of impact, search settings, create links and workspace.