Research Quality Framework

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The RQF Explained: Information Management and Repository Needs for the RQF

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The *Recommended RQF:*
Assessing the quality and impact of research in Australia
(October 2006)
RQF Timeline - 2007

• **First quarter** – Announcement of RQF Implementation,
  - Sector advised of requirements for institutional repositories (following sector consultation),
  - DEST advertises for members of Assessment Panels,
  - Discipline workshops held in February and March to develop panel-specific sections of Guidelines.

• **31 March 2007** – RQF Staff Census Date.
RQF Timeline - 2007

- **Second quarter** – Limited pre-implementation trials.
  - Draft RQF Specifications released to RQF contact officers.

- **July** – Release of RQF Specifications.

- **Third quarter** – Commencement of RQF Communication Strategy.

- **Fourth quarter** – Universities requested to provide Expressions of Intention to Submit Research Groups.
  - DEST and Chairs of Panels consider workloads, multi-disciplinary issues and a specialist database.
Implementation Funding to support Universities

- The Minister announced $87.3 million will be provided to institutions for the implementation associated with the RQF.
- Around $41 million will be provided to universities through two new programmes. This programme funding includes:
  - $16.4 million for the RQF Implementation Assistance Programme (IAP); and
  - $25.5 million for the Australian Scheme for Higher Education Repositories programme (ASHER).
Australian Scheme for Higher Education Repositories (ASHER)

- Establishment of institutional repositories.
- ASHER will provide support for:
  - purchase of hardware and software to establish a repository, or
  - institutions to update their existing repository.

And:
- support to meet the workload involved with populating the institution’s repository.

- Programme will also assist with delivery of the Accessibility Framework.
Information Management System (IMS)

- RQF IMS will:
  - interoperate with institutional repositories
  - receive institutional submission and evidence portfolios
  - will support the RQF assessment process.
- DEST will comply with the *Copyright Act 1968*.
- DEST is examining the most cost-effective solution for DEST and the sector, to comply with the Act.
- DEST considers that a paper-based solution would have created the same issues and at potentially greater expense.
Copyright Issues

- Some universities have already negotiated with publishers.
- DEST and CAUL will develop a sector-wide approach to negotiating with publishers.
- DEST will provide assistance to the sector on their management of copyright issues to do with the RQF.
Just a Few Known Issues

- Is DEST going to prescribe submission of the publisher version?
- Is DEST going to allow linking from the repository to the publisher’s website for the full text version?
- When will DEST release the business/policy and technical specifications?
- What about books?
- What kinds of research outputs are acceptable for assessment?
- How will ‘year of publication’ rules be applied?
- Is DEST going to collate or provide citation data centrally?
- When is DEST going to answer these questions?
- How will DEST answer other questions during submission and assessment?
Next Steps 2007/2008

• Implementation Trials.
• RQF Specifications developed and released.
• Assembly of Evidence Portfolios.