Research Quality Framework

Presentation to APSR - ARROW

- Repository Market Day

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Quality and Impact

In order to improve the quality and impact of research the RQF will focus on both:

- the **quality** of original research including its intrinsic merit and academic impact; and

- the **impact** or use of original research outside the peer community that will typically not be reported in traditional peer reviewed literature. Broader impact relates to the recognition by qualified end-users that methodologically sound and rigorous research has been successfully applied to achieve social, economic, environmental and/or cultural outcomes.
RQF Submission and Assessment Process

Institution Submission

Stage one: Expression of Intention to Submit
Provisional information that will provide an early indication to DEST of the likely distribution of work across disciplines.

Stage two: Institution Submission
Data collected at the level of institution including: Institution Submission and Evidence Portfolios for all submitted Research Groups

Evidence Portfolio
Evidence Portfolio
Evidence Portfolio

Guidance to Assessment Panels

Assessment Panels
Submission and Assessment Timeline

• In January 2008 institutions will be asked to provide Expressions of Intention to Submit (EIS)

• In March 2008 the RQF IMS will open for submissions of Evidence Portfolios

• The deadline for Vice-Chancellor’s Certification of Full Submissions is 30 April 2008

• Assessment will occur from July 2008
Quality Assessment for a Research Group

• Institutions are required to submit an Evidence Portfolio for each nominated Research Group. This should include:
  – A Context Statement
  – The four ‘best’ Research Outputs for each submitted researcher in the Research Group
  – Full list of Research Outputs for the Group in the 6 year period and
  – The Impact Statement
Quality Metrics

• Based on recommendations of the Metrics Working Group, DEST has commenced development of Quality Metrics for the RQF

• Discipline-specific quality metrics will be drawn from the following basket of measures:
  
  – Ranked Outputs – peak bodies to assist in journal ranking process in May-June 2007
  – Citation data – measured against centile benchmarks
  – Grant Income – DEST categories 1-4, reported separately

• DEST will be working with RQF panel chairs to arrive at appropriate metrics for panels.
Assessment Panels

• The 13 Assessment Panels are based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics’ Research Fields, Courses and Disciplines (RFCD) Codes.

• The Assessment Panel Chairs were announced by Minister Bishop on 17 April 2007.

• The Chairs are senior researchers of international standing who will make judgements on the quality and impact of research submitted based on sound, transparent and accountable processes.

• Advertisements are now out for Panel members
Australian Scheme for Higher Education Repositories (ASHER)

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.

• DEST will specify technical requirements for repositories to be eligible for ASHER funding rather than specific repository software/products
• Guidelines will specify the additional information required from institutions in funding applications
DEST IMS: Semi-centralised model

Institution

Institution Submission & Evidence Portfolios

DEST

Institution Repository

Assessor authenticated & research output registered

Assessor logs on to DEST

Evidence portfolio with links

Assessor requests research output

Research output retrieved

Research output

Assessor

Information Management System (IMS)

- RQF IMS will receive institutional submission and evidence portfolios and support the RQF assessment process

- Evidence portfolios may be submitted to DEST via a system-to-system interface, for example web services

- Assessment Panel members and Advisors will click on the links to access institution repositories to assess research outputs
Information Management System (IMS)

- Evidence portfolios will include direct links to research outputs stored in repositories, not metadata pages
- This will not include links to publishers’ or other third party repositories
- Links must be stable for the life of the 2008 RQF
- DEST is investigating the possibility of allowing institutions to view their submissions in the way an Assessment Panel would during the period between the IMS opening and certification by the Vice-Chancellor
Update on 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?