

# Australian Research Libraries and the Research Quality Framework



Gaby Haddow  
Curtin University Library &  
Information Service

# What is the RQF?

---

- Research output evaluation for DEST funding distribution
- Based on Research Assessment Exercise (1986- )
- Quality and impact measures
- Publications, research grants, higher degree completions, peer esteem, impact on community
- 2008 (funding 2009), 2014

# Research Assessment Exercise

---

- Group submissions
- 67 units of assessment - subject panels
- Previous 5 years output: 4 best examples of research output; achievements & strategies; esteem, research students, & grants.
- Rating: 1 - 5\*
  - national to international excellence
- 2001 - no funding for ratings 1 & 2

# RAE: Does it work?

---

## For

- Increased research productivity
- Improved research management
- Promotion and marketing tool

## Against

- Influence on publishing behaviour
- Decreased diversification of research
- Administrative burden

# ATN Partners RQF Trial

---

- Subject group submissions
- 4 best research outputs, esteem & strategic directions statement
- Focus on metrics - citations & impact factors
  
- Lack of clear guidelines
- Low level of knowledge about citations & IF
- Group & individual assistance to academics
- Citations sources

# Impact of RAE

---

“the scholarly journal is king”

(Naylor 2001, p.150)

- ❑ ‘RAE friendly’ research
- ❑ Erosion of links with profession
- ❑ Teaching-only departments
- ❑ Competition to publish - early in cycle & high impact journals
- ❑ Library funding
- ❑ Journal collections

# Preparing for the RQF

---

- ❑ Collections – research foci, core journals, measures of use, institutional repositories, sources of citations
- ❑ Staff – expertise in journals & citations, training, time, subject specialisation
- ❑ Budgeting – collections & staffing
- ❑ LIS educators – quality of submissions, focus on research