Using a balanced approach to bibliometrics: quantitative performance measures in the Australian Research Quality Framework

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ABSTRACT: Australia is about to move to a new system of distributing government block grants for research among universities, with the introduction of a process similar to Britain's Research Assessment Exercise (RAE). One of the most significant departures from the current RAE model is that, in the Australian Research Quality Framework, peer judgements will be informed by quantitative performance measures, including bibliometrics. The data will not be used in any formulaic way, but will sit alongside the assessment of other information provided to discipline panels—contextual information provided by the groups being assessed, the full text of the publications they regard as their 'best', and a full list of publications produced in the assessment period. This paper details the metrics to be used in this new framework and outlines some of the reasons why a balanced approach to research assessment was adopted.

Erratum

KEY WORDS: Bibliometrics · Research assessment · RQF · RAE


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RESEARCH QUALITY FRAMEWORK (RQF) Responses to the Issues Paper. Overall comments. The following comments form part of the Australian Research Council (ARC) response to the Issues Paper, and supplement those included under the thirteen Issues on which comment was requested by the Department. The Australian Research Council’s (ARC) mission is to “advance Australia’s research excellence to be globally competitive and deliver benefits to the community”. The ARC believes that the benefits that stem from ARC-funded research are realised through six distinct benefit channels, namely

- The ARC is of the view that competitive approaches to allocation of funding, guided by expert panels, are likely to deliver superior results. The use of performance measures can be an element of the internal audit activity’s internal assessment process to...