

A PRACTICAL GUIDE



A Practical Guide to Implementing Responsible Research Assessment at Research Funding Organizations is designed to support funders of all shapes and sizes to develop and implement responsible research assessment (RRA)-aligned approaches in their funding processes and workflows. Developed by DORA in collaboration with the Global Research Council RRA Working Group, Science Europe, and funders worldwide, it offers practical activities, tools, and examples to support implementation.

Conventional approaches to assessing research and researchers have often relied on the use of a narrow set of metrics, such as publication counts and citations. While useful in some contexts, output-metrics do not capture the full quality, breadth, and impact of scholarly work and therefore present only a partial view of performance and potential.

RRA responds to this by offering an approach built on three core principles: taking a holistic view of contributions and impact; valuing quality over quantity through broader more balanced indicators; and promoting equity¹. By aligning assessment practices with these principles, funders can help strengthen research quality, fairness, and societal impact.

The Guide provides guidance organized in 4 Chapters:

1. Introduction and rationale for RRA

The **rationale for RRA**, its goals and principles, and the importance of funders in driving reform in research assessment practices.

2. Key Activities for embedding RRA

The **key activities** that can provide the foundations for successful implementation of RRA at funding organizations.

3. Key Moments to implement RRA

The **moments and opportunities** to introduce RRA approaches during the research funding lifecycle.

4. Interconnections of RRA

The **interconnections of RRA** with core components of the research system, including research culture, open science, and research ethics and integrity.



DORA works to advance practical and robust approaches to research and researcher assessment globally.

This reference sheet introduces “A Practical Guide to Implementing Responsible Research Assessment at Research Funding Organizations”, which offers guidance and tips for funders seeking to reform their assessment practices.



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¹Curry, S., de Rijcke, S., Hatch, A., Pillay, D. (Gansen), van der Weijden, I., & Wilsdon, J. (2022). The changing role of funders in responsible research assessment: progress, obstacles and the way ahead (RoRI Working Paper No.3). Research on Research Institute. <https://doi.org/10.6084/M9.FIGSHARE.13227914.V2>