



Loughborough  
University

Dr Elizabeth Gadd  
@lizziegadd

Responsible metrics:  
what's the state of the art?



# Overview

- What are responsible metrics?
- Why should we care?
- How to implement a responsible metrics policy
- How to actually do metrics responsibly
- Who is responsible for responsible metrics?
- A call for research evaluation literacy

# Responsible metrics is what?

- A movement that seeks to ensure that the use of metrics in the evaluation of research is done responsibly mitigating against perverse effects and unintended consequences.

# WHY BOTHER?



# Metrics can kill people

## Imperial College professor Stefan Grimm 'was given grant income target'

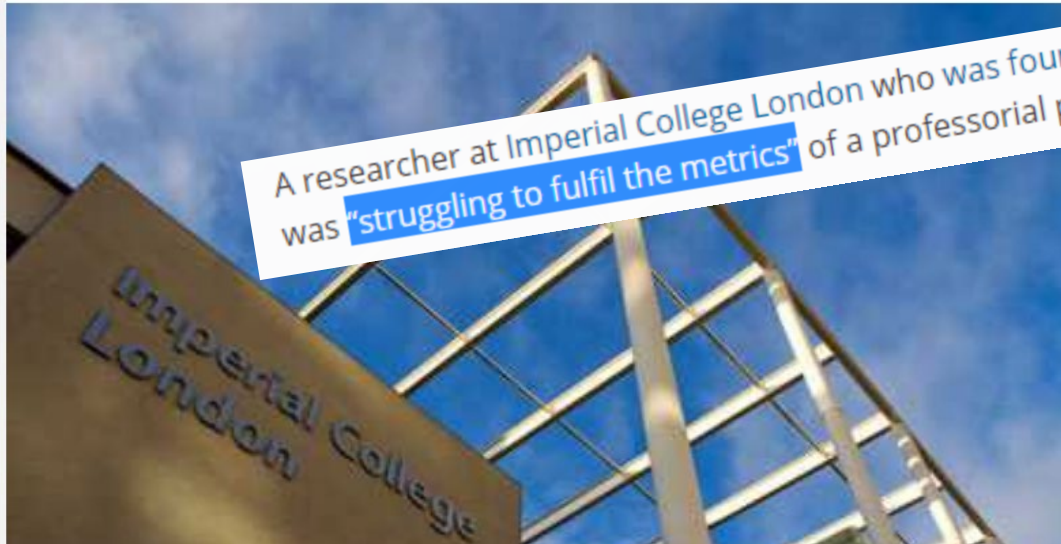
Emails with manager reveal details of review placed on academic found dead in September

December 3, 2014



By [Chris Parr](#)

Twitter: [@ChrisParrTHE](#)



A researcher at Imperial College London who was found dead in September had been told he was "struggling to fulfil the metrics" of a professorial post at the institution.

## Why the audit culture made me quit

When Liz Morrish opened up to students about the pressures academics are under, disciplinary proceedings culminated in her resignation. She reflects on why she chose to tackle the failings of the neoliberal academy from the outside

March 2, 2017

By [Liz Morrish](#)

Twitter: [@lizmorrish](#)

In the UK, much of the rush to management by metrics is in response to shifting government incentives and policy changes, which, fed through the mechanism of the research excellence framework, affect institutional priorities, reputations and funding levels. Many of these metrics are quite outside the control of academics. Nevertheless, they have been weaponised as tools of performance management, and the very nature of the scrutiny creates a hostile environment for academic freedom.

## Academics 'face higher mental health risk' than other professions

Lack of job security, limited support from management and weight of work-related demands on time among risk factors

August 22, 2017



By [Holly Else](#)

Twitter: [@HollyElse](#)



# Responsible metrics lead to better decisions

- Comparing SSH with STEM on citation counts...
- Comparing early & late-career academics on h-index...
- Judging anyone by their ResearchGate score...
- ...just isn't going to lead to a sensible decision, let alone a fair one.



# Responsible metrics statements

San Francisco  
**DORA**  
Declaration on Research Assessment

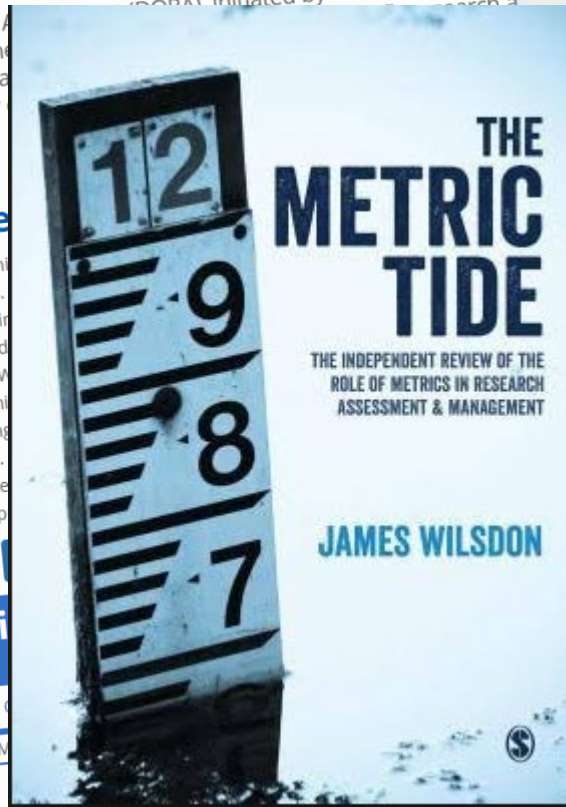
DORA About DORA

The San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA), initiated by the American Sociological Association, recognizes the need to improve the ways in which scholarly journals met during the Annual Meeting in San Francisco, CA, on December 16, 2012. The group of researchers who signed the Declaration indicate their support by adding their names to this list, which is available in a number of languages and varied, including: research articles reporting on research; research articles reporting on research; and highly trained young scientists. All scientists themselves, all have a desire, and need to improve the ways in which scientific output is assessed, and thus imperative that scientific output is assessed in a way that is fair and equitable.

## The Declaration

Indiv...

View 155...



**nature**  
International weekly journal of science

Home | News & Comment | Research | Careers & Jobs | Current Issue | Archive | Audio & Video

Archive | Volume 520 | Issue 7548 | Comment | Article

## Bibliometrics: The Leiden Manifesto for research metrics

Diana Hicks, Paul Wouters, Ludo Waltman, Sarah de Rijcke & Ismael Rafols

April 2015

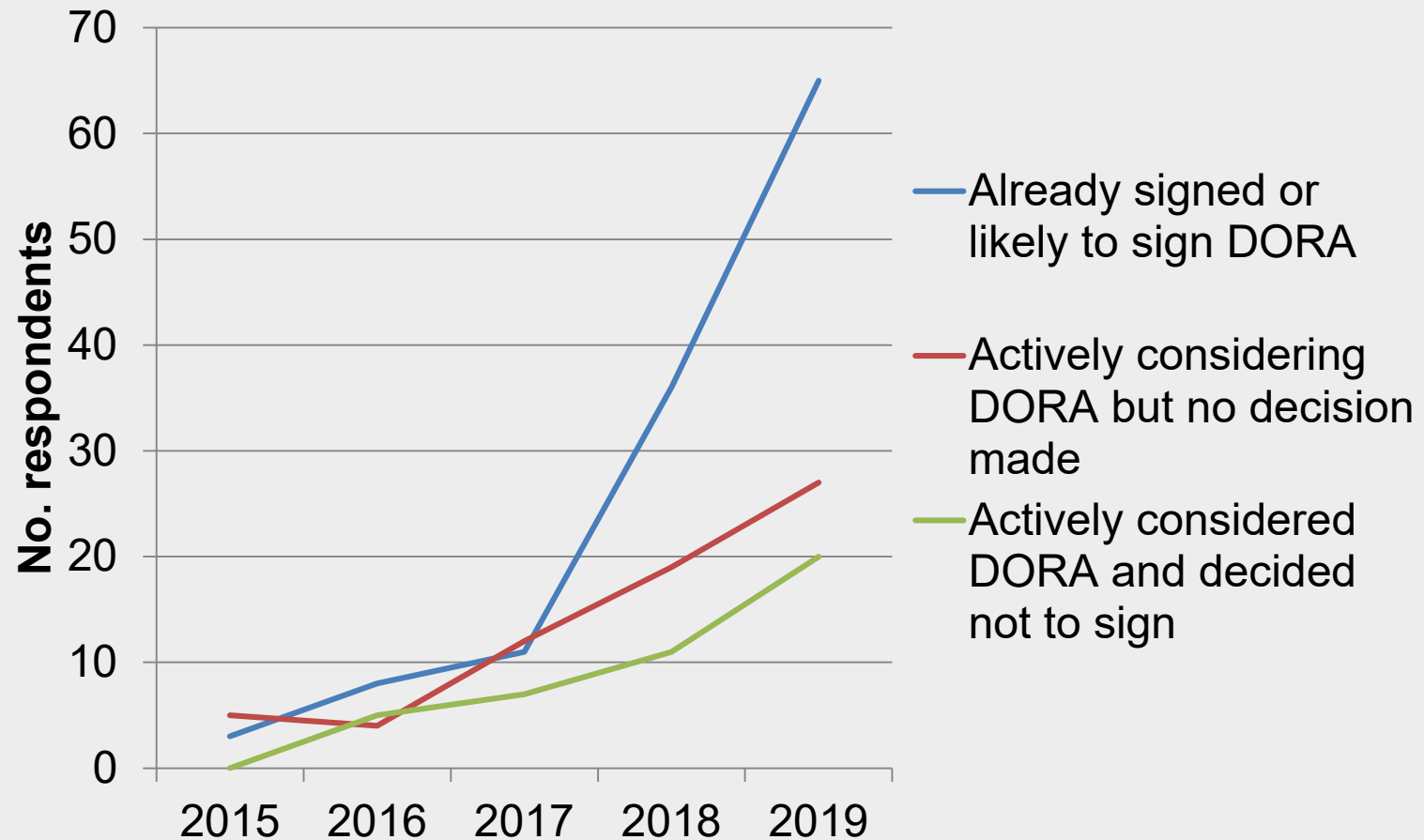
These ten principles to guide research evaluation, urge Diana Hicks, Paul Wouters and others.

Rights & Permissions

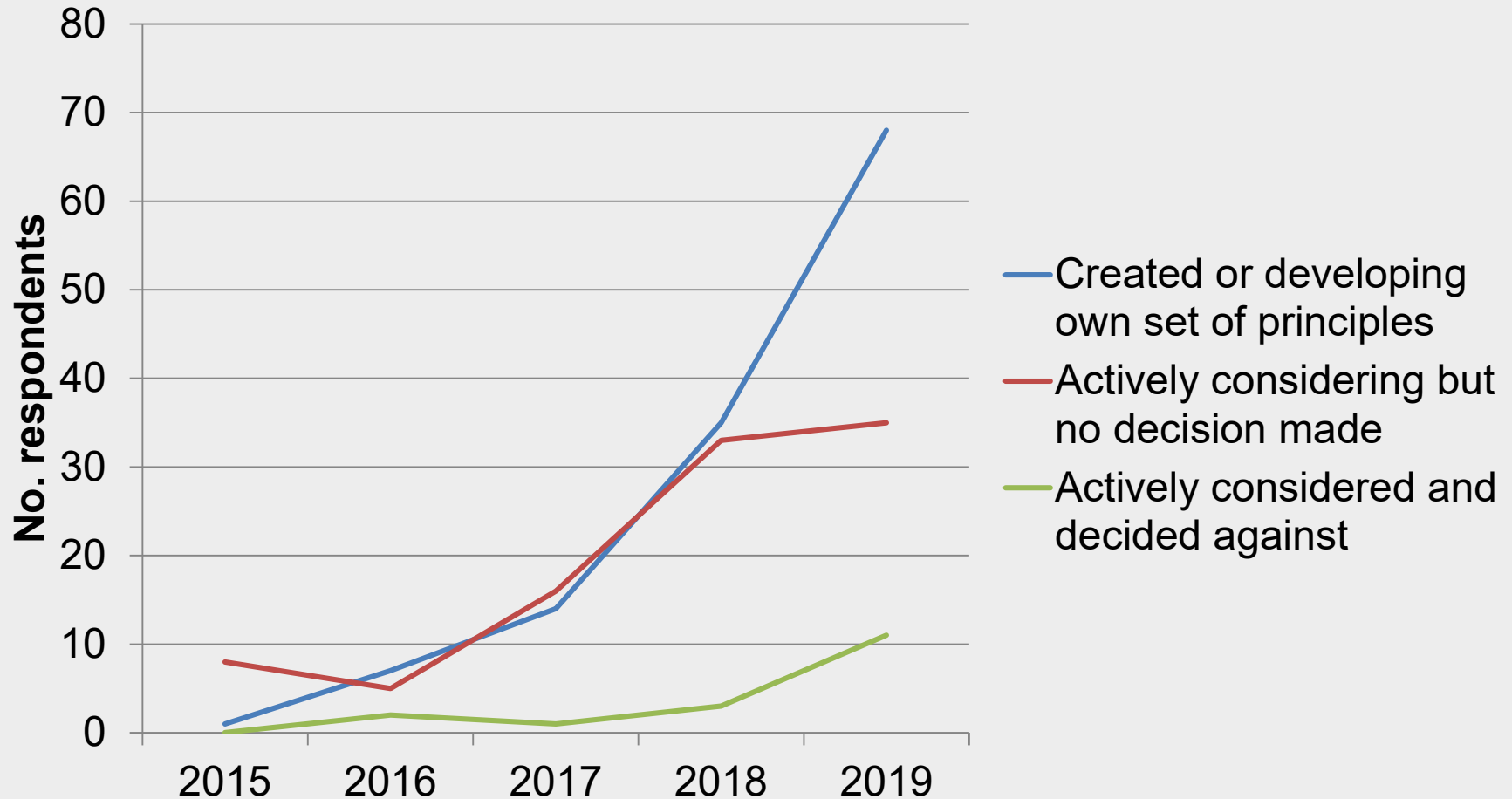
Terms: Careers • Research management • Publishing

#Insp...

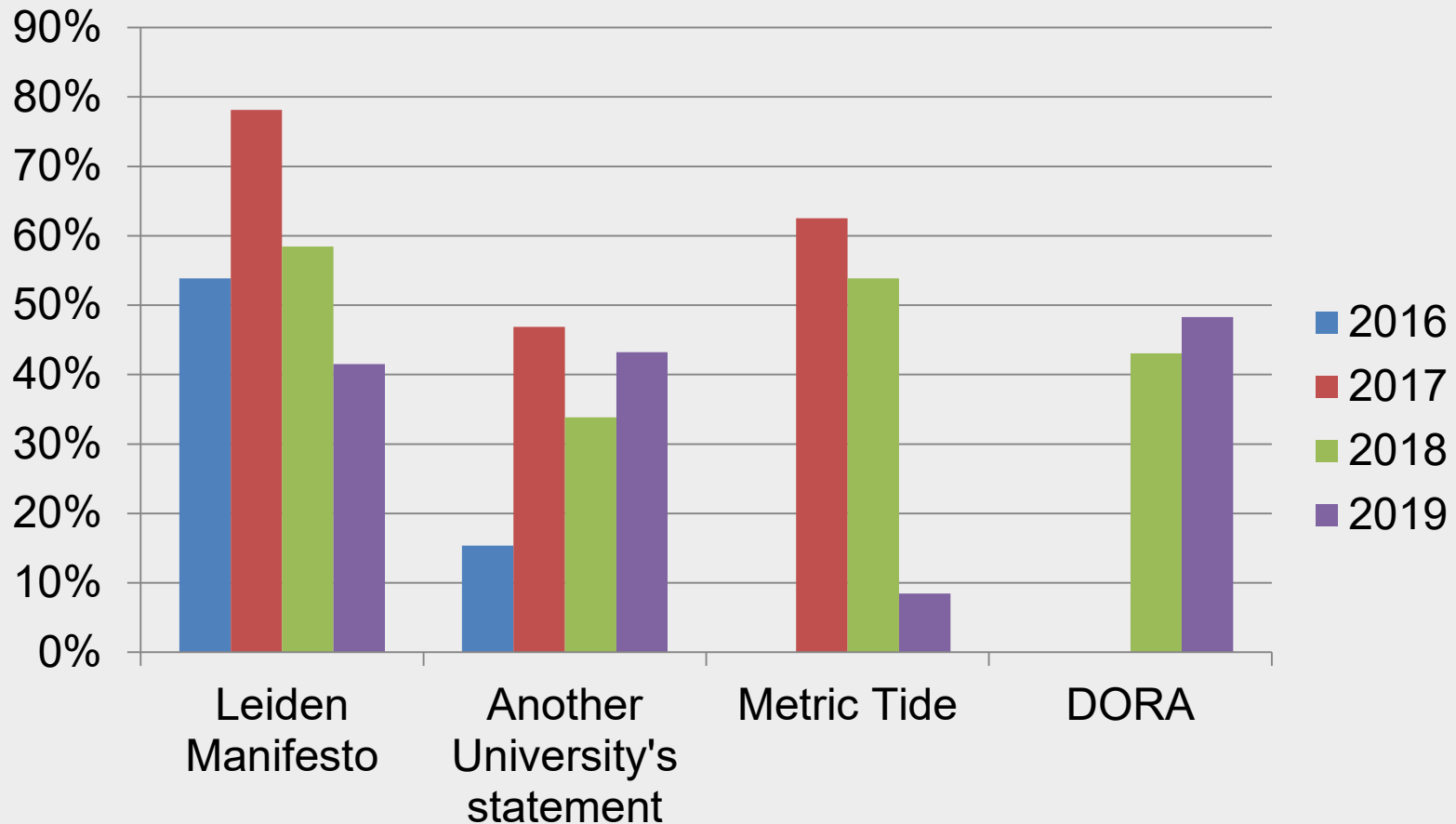
# Response to DORA



# Own responsible metrics principles



# Inspiration for RM statements



# How to implement a responsible metrics policy

# The need to accept your policy is just the beginning



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# The need to consider the advise-police-judge spectrum



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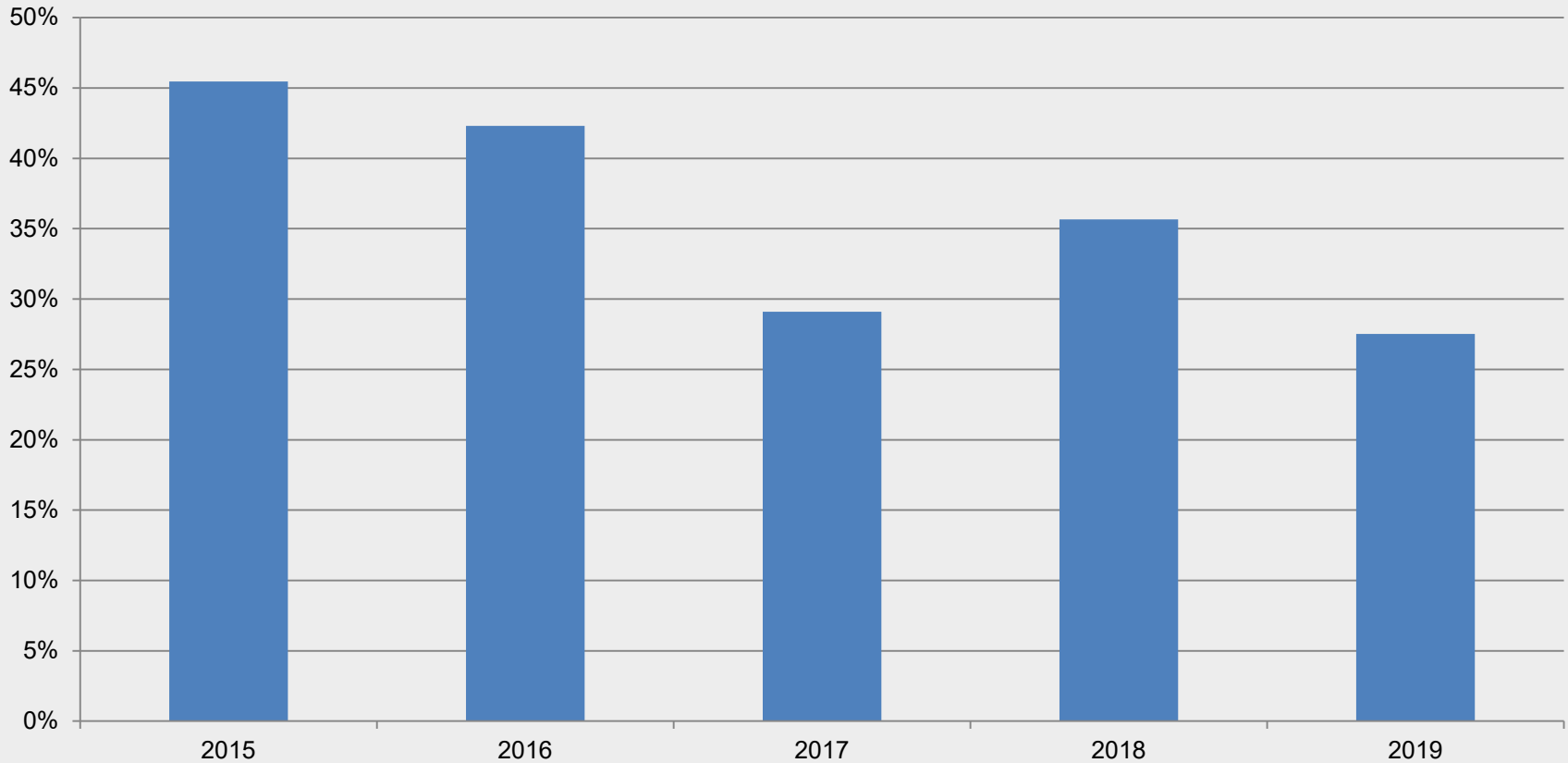


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# The need for ownership at senior level

## Senior University Managers involved in developing responsible metrics statements





# The need to manage upwards

## From a mailing list:

“...there’s a desire to have...a metric (and they are keen on just one) against which to evaluate the performance of our research... I’d be very interested to hear anyone else’s experiences ...in dealing with the expectations of senior managers with this sort of thing.”

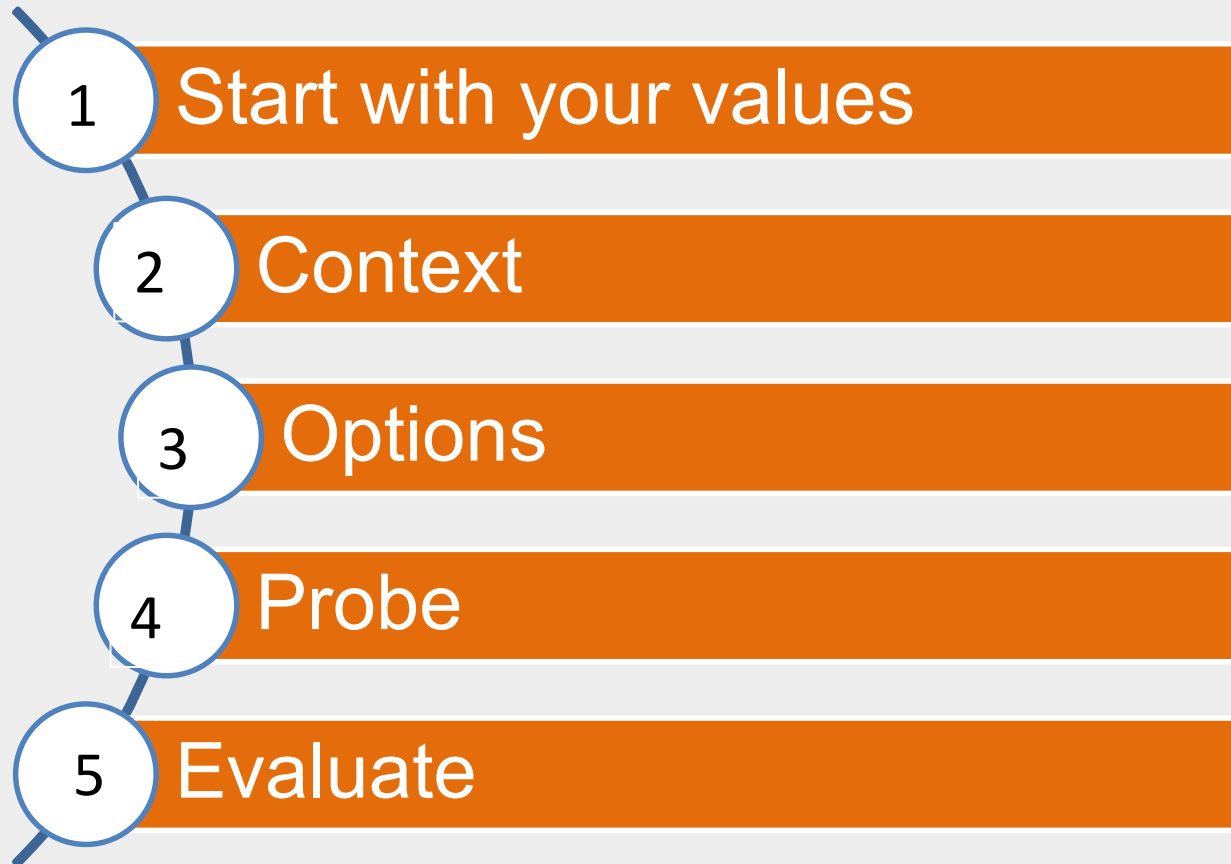
# How do you actually DO metrics responsibly?

# One concept, many interpretations

**Q: How has your policy affected your use of metrics in practice?**

- Avoid ALL metrics
- Ban certain metrics
- Reduce use of metrics
- Use metrics in line with policy
- Use metrics alongside peer review
- Use metrics in context
- Develop new metrics
- Use a wider range of metrics

# Introducing the model



# START with what you value

# START with what you value

- Not with the data you have available
  - The Streetlight Effect
- Not what others value
- University autonomy: use it or lose it

“If my h-index is the answer, what is the question?”

# The streetlight effect



# START with what you value

- Not with the data you have available
  - The Streetlight Effect
- Not what others value
- University autonomy: use it or lose it

“If my h-index is the answer, what is the question?”



# CONTEXT

# Understand who & why you're evaluating

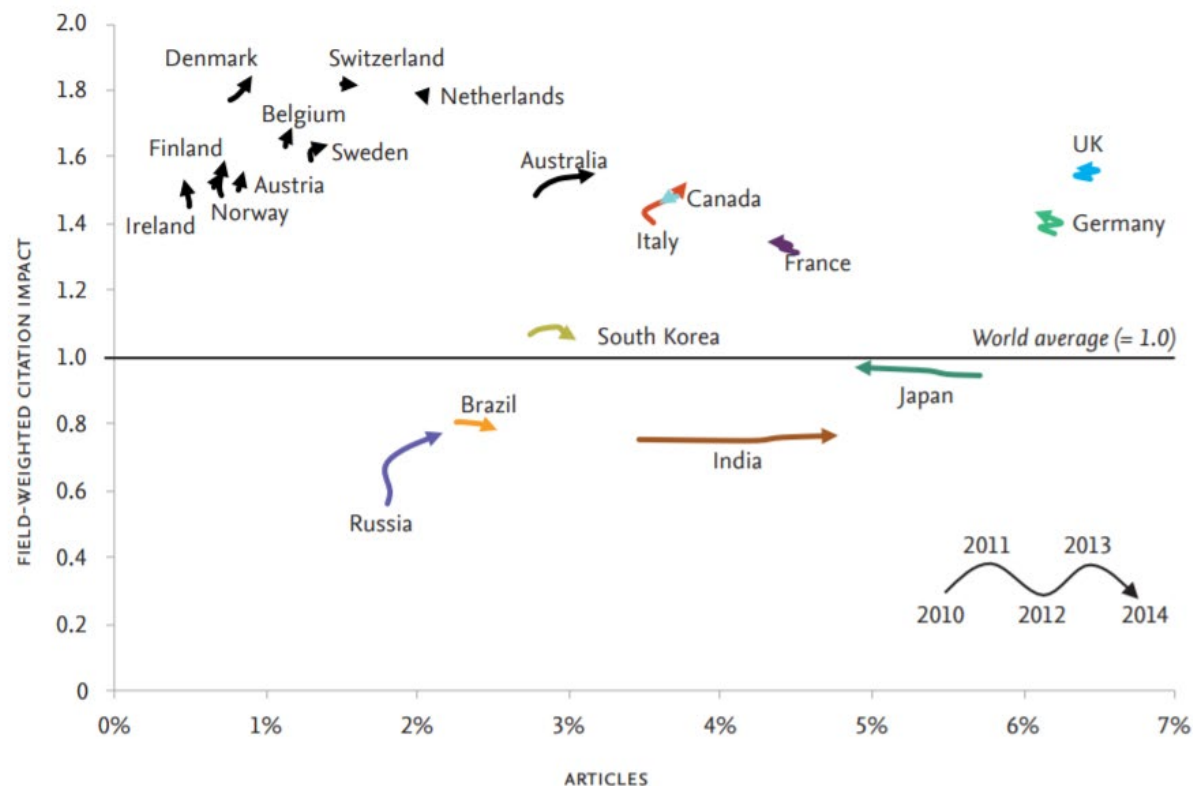
Individual	Medium risk	Medium risk	High risk	High risk	High risk	High risk
Group	Medium risk	Medium risk	Medium risk	High risk	High risk	High risk
HEI	Low risk	Low risk	Medium risk	High risk	High risk	High risk
Country	Low risk	Low risk	Low risk	Medium risk	Medium risk	High risk
	Understand	Show off	Monitor	Compare	Incentivise	Reward

Figure 1. Risks associated with metric use in various settings

Low risk	Low risk
Medium risk	Medium risk
High risk	High risk


# Use of FWCI in measuring to understand

**Panel A(2):** The UK and comparator countries plus top ten countries with the highest field-weighted citation impact in 2014 among OECD countries with at least 5,000 publications in 2014 (excluding the US and China).




International Comparative Performance of UK Research Base – 2016 report on 2011-2014 data  
[https://www.elsevier.com/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0018/507321/ELS-BEIS-Web.pdf](https://www.elsevier.com/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/507321/ELS-BEIS-Web.pdf)

# Use of FWCI to identify staff for redundancy...



**James Sumner**  
@JamesBSumner




So, these are the proposed criteria I (a historian, remember) wd have to meet to avoid being among the ~140 of whom ~65 will lose our jobs.


The University will consult with the Trade Unions on a set of criteria to reduce the group of around 627 academic posts 'in scope' to a group of around 140 posts that will subsequently be 'at risk' of redundancy. The loss of 65 posts will come from this 'at risk' pool. The criteria that we are proposing to apply to identify the 'at risk' pool are defined below. However, please note that these criteria are subject to consultation with the Trade Unions and therefore may change.

If staff meet or exceed one or more of the proposed criteria below, they will not be at risk.

- Research and other income in the four-year period from 1 August 2012 to 31 August 2016 of £400k, £300k, £200k or more respectively for staff in Grades 9, 8, 7/6; or
- Research awards from 1 August 2015 to 31 March 2017 of £225k, £150k, £75k or more respectively for staff in Grades 9, 8, 7/6; or
- A sum of Field-Weighted Citation Impact greater than 1.5
- Staff on a core, permanent teaching only, teaching focused or teaching scholarship contract

Where staff have had a significant period of absence from work (three months or more) due to maternity leave or sickness absence for example, we will consider the data in these cases and seek to mitigate any adverse impact attributable to the period of absence, e.g. by using a time period that is more relevant to the individual circumstances. Equally we will give consideration as to how the criteria may need to be adjusted in relation to staff who have a disability.

82 15:53 - 13 May 2017 

200 people are talking about this 

# Do we need to evaluate at all?

- Huge growth in incentivising behaviour through measurement
- Campbell's Law: "The way you measure me is the way I'll behave"
- Measuring is not always the best way to incentivise behaviour



PUSHING  
THE FRONTIERS  
OF INNOVATIVE  
RESEARCH

ADVICE PAPER  
NO.24 - MAY 2018

# Open Science and its role in universities:

ole in universities

research. In order for these goals to be achieved, universities should align their assessment, reward and evaluation systems with Open Science developments.<sup>9</sup>



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.....  
#InspiringWinners since 1909

# The Hong Kong Manifesto for Assessing Researchers: Fostering Research Integrity

David Moher<sup>1</sup>, Lex Bouter<sup>2</sup>, Sabine Kleinert<sup>3</sup>, Paul Glasziou<sup>4</sup>, Mai Har Sham<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Centre for Journalology, Clinical Epidemiology Program, Ottawa Hospital Research Institute; School of Epidemiology and Public Health, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Canada; <sup>2</sup>Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Amsterdam University Medical Centers, location VUmc, and Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Humanities, Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam, The Netherlands; <sup>3</sup>*The Lancet*, London Wall Office, London, UK; <sup>4</sup>Centre for Research in Evidence-Based Practice, Bond University, Gold Coast, Qld, Australia; and <sup>5</sup>School of Biomedical Sciences, LKS Faculty of Medicine, The University of Hong Kong, Pokfulam, Hong Kong SAR, China



# OPTIONS



# Options

- Is your measure a suitable proxy for what you're measuring?
- Quantitative measures are for quantifiable things...
  - Citations, publications, money, students
- Qualitative measures for qualifiable things...
  - Quality, diversity, excellence, value
- Beware using quantitative indicators as a proxy for qualitative things
  - Citations  $\neq$  quality
  - Ranking position  $\neq$  excellence

# “Never mind the quality, feel the width”

University search:

Study Level



Subject of interest



Study destination



GO

## Faculty/Student Ratio (20%)

Teaching quality is typically cited by students as the metric of highest importance to them when comparing institutions using a ranking. It is notoriously difficult to measure, but we have determined that measuring teacher/student ratios is the most effective proxy metric for teaching quality. It assesses the extent to which institutions are able to provide students with meaningful access to lecturers and tutors, and recognizes that a high number of faculty members per student will reduce the teaching burden on each individual academic.

*Faculty/student Ratio* constitutes 20 percent of an institution's final score.

# PEER REVIEW WATCH

Peer-review is the gold standard of science. But an increasing number of retractions has made academics and journalists alike start questioning the peer-review process. This blog gets underneath the skin of peer-review and takes a look at the issues the process is facing today.

Medical Republic

CLINICAL ▾

THEHILL ▾

KNOWCENTS ▾

RE

1 MARCH 2016

## THE GOLD STANDARD: WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT PEER REVIEW

COMMUNICATION JOURNALS KNOWCENTS



## When is Peer Review the Gold Standard, and When is it Only Tin?

Published on *October 22, 2016* by *Tony Waters*

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Search

Categories

In: Peer Review ▶

## A new gold standard of peer review is needed

September 29, 2017 \* Author: Jon Tennant



Loughborough University

#InspiringWinners since 1909

metrics are  
rubbish  
but ... (far)  
people are worse

Alan Dix

University of Birmingham and Talis

<http://alandix.com/ref2014/>

# PROBE

# Probe for potential negative impacts

1. Who does this discriminate against?
2. How could this be gamed?
3. What might the perverse incentives and consequences be?
4. Do the benefits of measuring outweigh the cost of measuring?
5. Is evaluating research actually going to make it any better?

## REF 2014 cost almost £250 million

Accountability review finds cost of assessment equates to 2.4 per cent of funding bodies' expected spend over next six years

July 13, 2015



By [Holly Else](#)

Twitter: [@HollyElse](#)

## Does the cost outweigh the benefit?





# Probe for potential negative impacts

1. Who does this discriminate against?
2. How could this be gamed?
3. What might the perverse incentives and consequences be?
4. Do the benefits of measuring outweigh the cost of measuring?
5. Is evaluating research actually going to make it any better?

# You don't fatten a pig by weighing it



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**EVALUATE your evaluation...**

That's how we can  
evaluate responsibly.

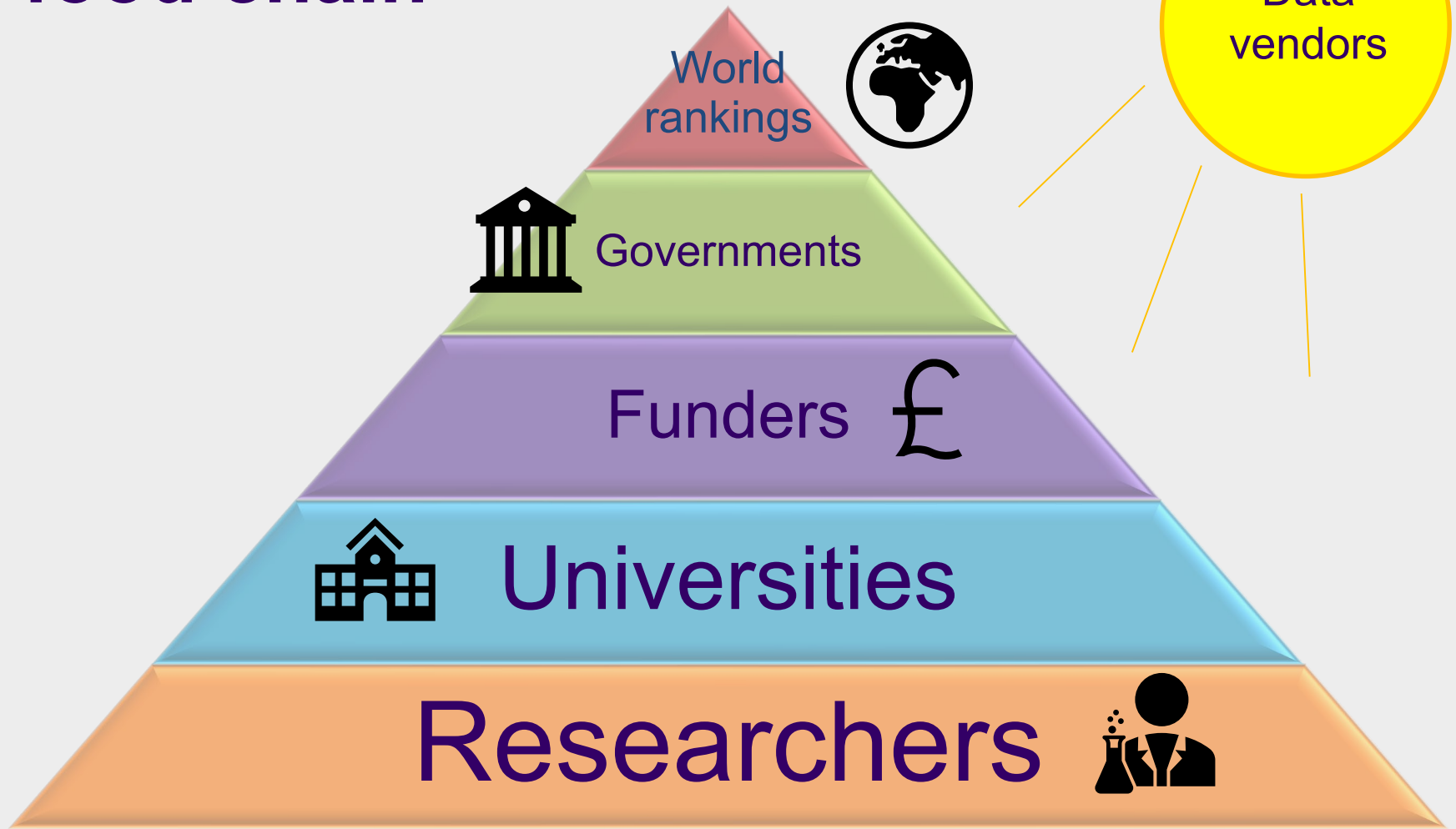
But who's 'we'?

Who's responsible for  
responsible metrics?



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# The research evaluation food chain





## Future of Scholarly Publishing and Scholarly Communication

"nothing will do more to foster change in accordance with the principles set out in this report than concerted work and **institutional change** in the area of rewards and incentives"

# Use of the Journal Impact Factor in academic review, promotion, and tenure evaluations

Erin C. McKiernan<sup>1,\*</sup>, Lesley A. Schimanski<sup>2</sup>, Carol Muñoz Nieves<sup>2</sup>, Lisa Matthias<sup>3</sup>, Meredith T. Niles<sup>4</sup>, and Juan Pablo Alperin<sup>2,5\*\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Departamento de Física, Facultad de Ciencias, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México

<sup>2</sup>Scholarly Communications Lab, Simon Fraser University

<sup>3</sup>John F. Kennedy Institute, Freie Universität Berlin

<sup>4</sup>Department of Nutrition and Food Sciences, Food Systems Program, University of Vermont

<sup>5</sup>School of Publishing, Simon Fraser University

\*Corresponding author: emckiernan@ciencias.unam.mx

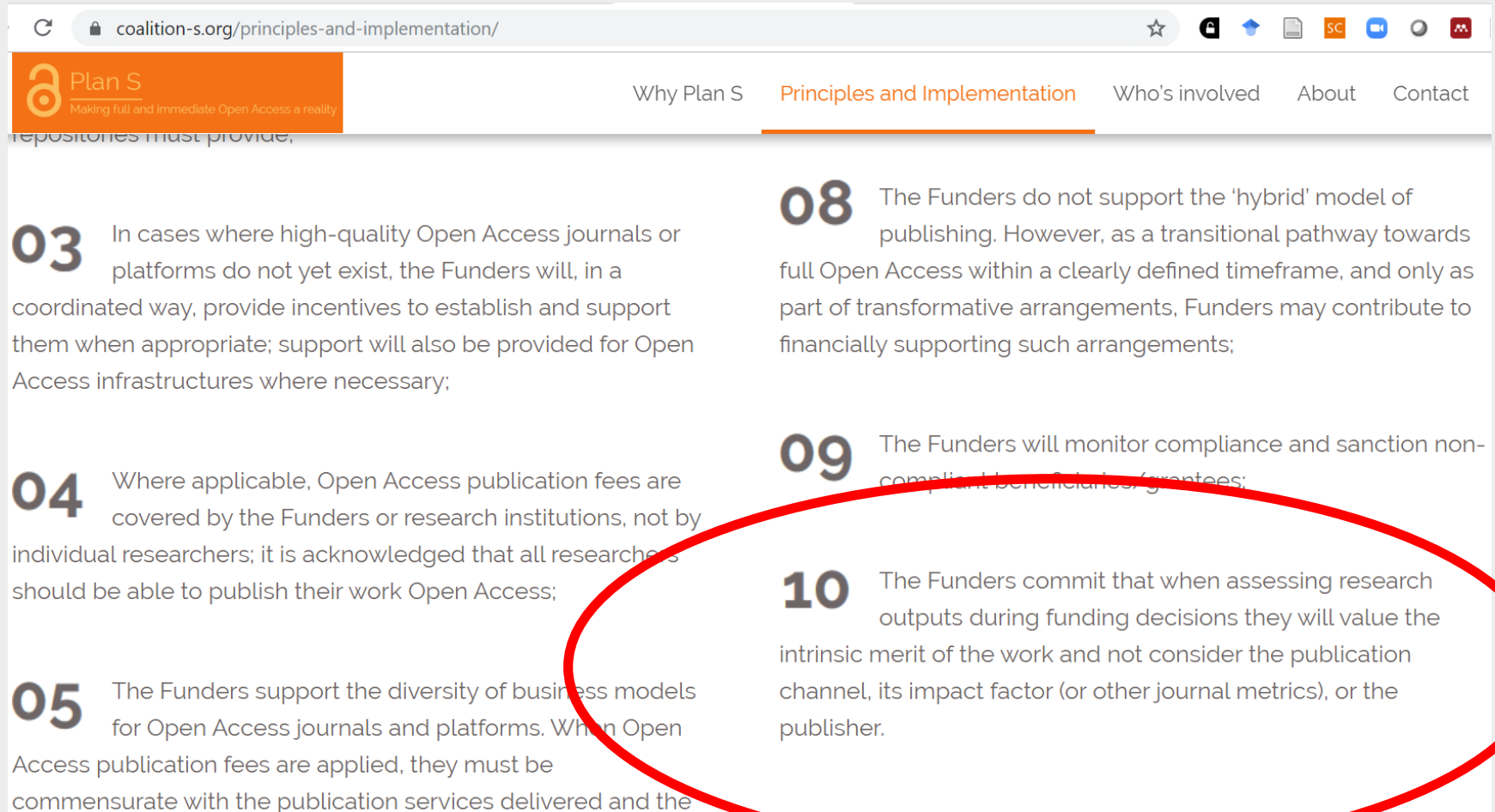
\*\*Corresponding author: juan@alperin.ca

## Abstract

The Journal Impact Factor (JIF) was originally designed to aid libraries in deciding which journals to index and purchase for their collections. Over the past few decades, however, it has become a relied upon metric used to evaluate research articles based on journal rank. Surveyed faculty often report feeling pressure to publish in journals with high JIFs and mention reliance on the JIF as one problem with current academic evaluation systems. While faculty reports are useful, information is lacking on how often and in what ways the JIF is currently used for review, promotion, and tenure (RPT). We therefore collected and analyzed RPT documents from a representative sample of 129 universities from the United States and Canada and 381 of their academic units. We found that 40% of doctoral, research-intensive (R-type) institutions and 18% of master's, or comprehensive (M-type) institutions explicitly mentioned the JIF, or closely related terms, in their RPT documents. Undergraduate, or baccalaureate (B-type) institutions did not mention it at all. A detailed reading of these documents suggests that institutions may also be using a variety of terms to indirectly refer to the JIF. Our qualitative analysis shows that 87% of the institutions that mentioned the JIF supported the metric's use



# Funders – Plan S



The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the Plan S website. The URL in the address bar is coalition-s.org/principles-and-implementation/. The page has a navigation menu with 'Principles and Implementation' selected. The main content area lists several principles, with principle 10 circled in red. The text of principle 10 is: 'The Funders commit that when assessing research outputs during funding decisions they will value the intrinsic merit of the work and not consider the publication channel, its impact factor (or other journal metrics), or the publisher.'

03 In cases where high-quality Open Access journals or platforms do not yet exist, the Funders will, in a coordinated way, provide incentives to establish and support them when appropriate; support will also be provided for Open Access infrastructures where necessary;

04 Where applicable, Open Access publication fees are covered by the Funders or research institutions, not by individual researchers; it is acknowledged that all researchers should be able to publish their work Open Access;

05 The Funders support the diversity of business models for Open Access journals and platforms. When Open Access publication fees are applied, they must be commensurate with the publication services delivered and the

08 The Funders do not support the 'hybrid' model of publishing. However, as a transitional pathway towards full Open Access within a clearly defined timeframe, and only as part of transformative arrangements, Funders may contribute to financially supporting such arrangements;

09 The Funders will monitor compliance and sanction non-compliant beneficiaries/grantees;

10 The Funders commit that when assessing research outputs during funding decisions they will value the intrinsic merit of the work and not consider the publication channel, its impact factor (or other journal metrics), or the publisher.



# Funders

What is the level of understanding of bibliometrics within the panels?


*I am not at all an expert in bibliometrics; I just have a general idea of what it is.*

Half of the interviewees reported previously sitting on selection panels that used bibliometrics (some of these were in panel settings beyond NIHR). One panel member noted that the experience gained through selection panels over a number of years, had improved their understanding of bibliometrics data and consequently they were able to “make better use of it” during the selection process. The remaining interviewees had never encountered the use of bibliometrics on selection panels prior to being involved with these competitions. These panel members described their understanding of bibliometrics as “rudimentary”, “cursory”, and “limited”. These members recognised that, at best, their understanding of bibliometrics was at a basic level, and certainly not at the detailed statistical level. Some of them were unsure about the details of the normalisation procedure and the comparability of applicants across different research fields.<sup>11</sup> Overall, levels of expertise varied considerably, so some form of introduction or briefing is required to make sure that the information is accessible and useful to all panel members.

Gunasekar, S., Wooding, S. & Guthrie, S., 2017. How do NIHR peer review panels use bibliometric information to support their decisions? *Scientometrics*, 112(3), pp.1813–1835.

# Wellcome Trust OA policy



- Wellcome-funded organisations must sign or publicly commit to the [San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment](#)  (DORA), or an equivalent. We may ask organisations to show that they're complying with this as part of our organisation audits. This is a new requirement to encourage organisations to consider the intrinsic merit of the work when making promotion and tenure decisions, not just the title of the journal or publisher.

# Governments

The Research Council of Norway

APPLY FOR FUNDING NEWS EVENTS POLICY AND STRATEGY INTERNATIONAL FOR INDUSTRY T

You are here: [Home page](#) > [Policy and strategy](#) > [Evaluations](#) > [Institute evaluations](#)

POLICY AND STRATEGY

- Strategy plans
- Priority initiatives for 2018
- The institute sector
- Evaluations**
  - Subject-specific evaluations
  - Institute evaluations**
  - Evaluation of the Research Council's own activities
  - Evaluation of political reforms

## Institute evaluations

The Research Council is responsible for conducting evaluations of the research institutes that receive public basic funding via the Coun

anvur ITALIAN NATIONAL AGENCY FOR THE EVALUATION OF UNIVERSITIES AND RESEARCH INSTITUTES

Agency Activities Contacts

Home

## REF 2021

Research Excellence Framework

Publications News

# Research Excellence

The REF is the system for assessing higher education institutions.

Search the REF website

## Highlights



### Publicazione Resoconto delle attività nel 2018 e Giornata della Trasparenza

📅 08/02/2019

Da oggi, 8 febbraio 2019, è disponibile nel sito dell'Agenzia il Resoconto delle attività dell'ANVUR nel 2018. Il prossimo 12 febbraio, tra le 10.30 e le 12.30, presso la nostra sede, si terrà la Giornata della Trasparenza dell'ANVUR. È un'occasione preziosa per un confronto con i principali interlocutori istituzionali

# Indonesia's scientists voice concerns about the country's researcher ranking system

Critics flag unclear methodology, lack of credit for research contributions other than publications

by *Dalmeet Singh Chawla*

DECEMBER 31, 2018

Critics say the methodology and reasoning behind the metric, known as the **Science and Technology Index** (SINTA), are unclear. SINTA takes into account the number of journal and non-journal articles indexed in the database Scopus, the number of citations these documents accumulate in Scopus and Google Scholar, and researchers' h-index. The h-index is another controversial metric that is designed to measure researchers' productivity and the impact of their publications.



SUHARYO SUMOWIDAGDO

Lembaga Ilmu Pengetahuan Indonesia

NIDN /NIP/NIDK :

Scopus<sup>®</sup> H-Index : 91 | Google H-Index : 134 |

Experimental Particle Physics | High Performance Computing



INDAH SUCI WIDYAHENING

Universitas Indonesia

NIDN /NIP/NIDK : 0311107303

Scopus<sup>®</sup> H-Index : 7 | Google H-Index : 11 |

Family Medicine | Primary Health Care | Evidence based Medicine | Community Medicine



RIYANARTO SARNO

Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember

NIDN /NIP/NIDK : 0003085905

Scopus<sup>®</sup> H-Index : 17 | Google H-Index : 20 |

Internet of Things | Business Process Management | Process Aware Information Systems | Knowledge Eng  
Smart Grids



I GEDE WENTEN

Institut Teknologi Bandung

NIDN /NIP/NIDK : 0015026202

Scopus<sup>®</sup> H-Index : 21 | Google H-Index : 30 |

Membrane Technology

52.84

Since 2017

# Top Ten



ANWAR MALLONGI

Universitas Hasanuddin

NIDN /NIP/NIDK : 0016087401

Scopus<sup>®</sup> H-Index : 12 | Google H-Index : 11 |

Health and Environmental Risks Assessment | Environmental and Health Modeling

31.11

Since 2017



HANUNG ADI NUGROHO

Universitas Gadjah Mada

NIDN /NIP/NIDK : 0024027804

Scopus<sup>®</sup> H-Index : 10 | Google H-Index : 13 |

Biomedical signal & image processing & ana | computer vision | medical instrumentation | medical imaging  
statistical pattern

30.93

Since 2017



ACHMAD NIZAR HIDAYANTO

Universitas Indonesia

NIDN /NIP/NIDK : 0024077601

Scopus<sup>®</sup> H-Index : 8 | Google H-Index : 12 |

Information Technology | Information System | Business Intelligence | Technology Adoption | Electronic Commerce

30.88

Since 2017



MAURIDHI HERY PURNOMO

Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember

NIDN /NIP/NIDK : 0016095811

Scopus<sup>®</sup> H-Index : 4 | Google H-Index : 17 |

Artificial Intelligence

29.61

Since 2017



MOHAMMAD BASYUNI

Universitas Sumatera Utara

NIDN /NIP/NIDK : 0021047304

Scopus<sup>®</sup> H-Index : 14 | Google H-Index : 16 |

Molecular Biotechnology | Plant Lipid Biochemistry | Plant Biology | Bioinformatics

29.58

Since 2017



TOLE SUTIKNO

Universitas Ahmad Dahlan

NIDN /NIP/NIDK : 0512067501

Scopus<sup>®</sup> H-Index : 13 | Google H-Index : 19 |

29.24

Since 2017

# University rankings



## Indicators and Weights for ARWU

Criteria	Indicator	Code	Weight
Quality of Education	Alumni of an institution winning Nobel Prizes and Fields Medals	Alumni	10%
	Staff of an institution winning Nobel Prizes and Fields Medals	Award	20%
Quality of Faculty	Highly cited researchers in 21 broad subject categories	HiCi	20%
	Papers published in Nature and Science*	N&S	20%
Research Output	Papers indexed in Science Citation Index-expanded and Social Science Citation Index	PUB	20%
	Per Capita Performance	PCP	10%
Total			100%

\* For institutions specialized in humanities and social sciences such as London School of Economics, N&S is not considered, and the weight of N&S is relocated to other indicators.

# Data vendors

Cox, Brian E.

 University of Manchester ... [Show all affiliations](#) | [View this Researcher in Scopus](#) <sup>↗</sup> | [Why do the metrics look different to those in Scopus?](#) <sup>↗</sup>

2014 to >2018



no subject area filter selected



ASJC



[Data sources](#)

Summary

Topics

Collaboration

Published

Viewed

Cited

Economic Impact

[+ Add Summary to Reporting](#) [Export](#) <sup>▼</sup>

## Overall research performance

[+ Add to Reporting](#)

Scholarly Output 

36


 [View list of publications](#)

Field-Weighted Citation Impact 

3.52

Citation Count 

966

Citations per Publication 

26.8

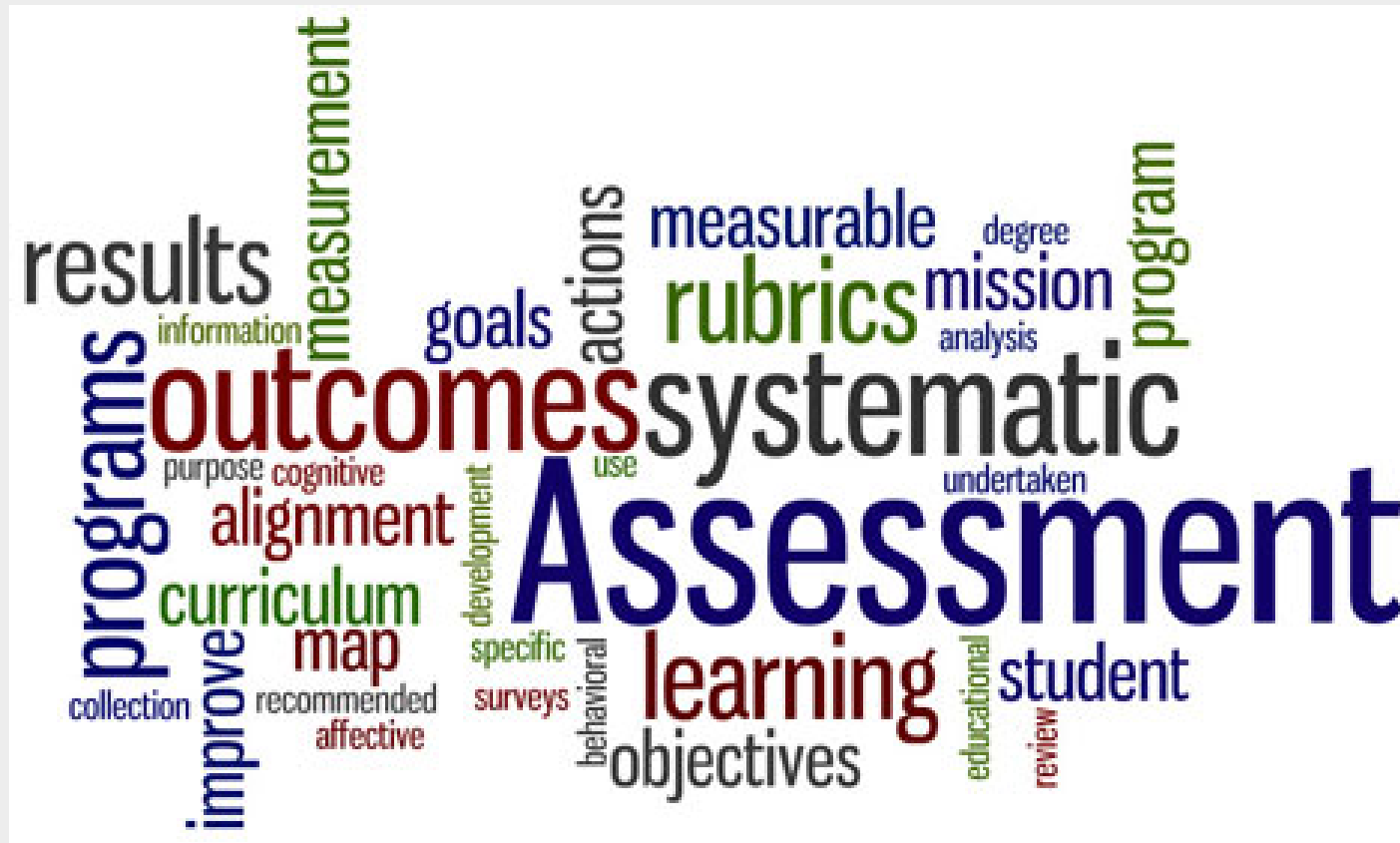
*h*-index

70

*h5*-index 

33

# The need for Evaluation Literacy



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# Responsible metrics requires responsible people

- Robust
- Humble
- Transparent
- Diverse
- Reflexive



# Universities

29%

The proportion of Librarians surveyed whose LIS degree included bibliometrics

# Bibliometric Competencies

## Competency model for bibliometric work (version 1.1; July 2017)

Based on Cox, Gadd, Petersohn, Sbaiffi (2017) Competencies for bibliometrics. JOLIS. <http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/0961000617728111>. Project sponsored by Elsevier Research Intelligence.

### Entry Level

### Core


### Specialist

	<u>Entry Level</u>	<u>Core</u>	<u>Specialist</u>
1 Applications		I) Uses bibliometric knowledge to recommend where to publish and what to read; to increase academic staff bibliometric literacy; to support annual reporting by academic departments; to support grant capture; and to guide library collection and evaluate repository coverage.	I) Uses bibliometric knowledge to evaluate departmental/research centre performance; to evaluate institutional performance; and to support academic bibliometric research.  II) May undertake charged-for consultancy.
2	I) Explains effectively the concept, potential uses and limitations of bibliometrics to a range of stakeholders.  II) Explains the concept, potential uses and limitations of altmetrics to stakeholders.	I) Advises on which are the appropriate tools to calculate a particular metric and explains differences in results between metrics produced by different tools. II) Explains responsible use as a general set of principles, and applies these principles to specific requests/cases. For example, advises on the applicability of metrics and tools to particular disciplines.	I) Monitors national policy changes around research evaluation and advises on institutional responses.  II) Advises on decisions about how the institution should use specific tools and on decisions about institutional Key Performance Indicators.
3	III) Explains author identifiers, such as ORCID, and promotes their	III) Participates in key debates about how research quality should be	III) Advises on decisions about what a responsible use policy should

# Statistics for responsible bibliometrics

uk  
arma  
Association of Research Managers and Administrators

Home / Public / Responsible Bibliometrics Analysis, Interpretation, and Reporting – A Statistics Approach



## Responsible Bibliometrics Analysis, Interpretation, and Reporting – A Statistics Approach

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**Presenters**

Mike Thelwall Professor of Data Science, University of Wolverhampton	Dr Abigail McBirnie UK-based Information Specialist
--	--

**Registration**  
11th October 2019 9:30 am

**Finish**  
11th October 2019 4:00 pm

**Venue**  
Room Met 2, The Met Hotel Leeds, King  
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# inorms

Research Evaluation Working Group

Meaningful, responsible & effective  
research evaluation

Dr Elizabeth Gadd



Loughborough  
University

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#InspiringWinners since 1909

# Workpackage 1: Rating the rankers

- What if Rankers are no longer at the top of the food chain?
- Rate the rankers criteria:  
<https://inorms.net/activities/research-evaluation-working-group/>
- Key themes:
  - Responsibility
  - Transparency
  - Measuring what matters
  - Rigour

What makes a fair and responsible university ranking?  
Draft criteria for comment

#### Introduction

The International Network of Research Management Societies (INORMS) established a two-year Research Evaluation Working Group (REWG) in 2018. It consists of representatives from a range of global member research management societies all seeking to work towards better, fairer and more meaningful research evaluation. One of the group's two areas of focus is the burgeoning influence of University Rankings on the behaviours of universities despite often poor methodological approaches and practices. The purpose of this work-package is to consider what we, as an international group of research managers, think the characteristics of a fair and responsible University Ranking should look like. The idea is to then 'turn the tables' on the rankings and rate them against our agreed criteria. We are now seeking feedback on our draft list of characteristics, particularly around:

- 1) Whether the characteristics, as written, make sense to you?
- 2) Are there any characteristics you think are missing?
- 3) What you think are the priority and non-priority characteristics?

Please note that at this stage, we are not considering how these characteristics might be assessed, only whether they are desirable. The references in brackets lead to texts that inspired these principles, they are not direct quotations.

The consultation is open until Monday 10 June and feedback can be emailed to either [INORMS-RES-EVAL@jiscmail.ac.uk](mailto:INORMS-RES-EVAL@jiscmail.ac.uk) (if you are a member) or directly to the Rankings Sub-Group leader, Justin Shearer, on [shearer.j@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:shearer.j@unimelb.edu.au)

We look forward to hearing from you!

Lizzie Gadd, INORMS REWG Chair

#### 1. General approach

- Profiles not rankings. Accepts that higher education and research organisation are complex, multi-faceted entities and provide a facility by which their range of strengths can be displayed. (BP)
- Measure against mission. Accepts that different universities have different missions and provides a facility by which universities can be assessed against their own goals. (LM, BP, Blank, Shen)
- One thing at a time. Does not combine indicators to create a composite metric. (YG) (CWTS)
- Provides context. Provides a link out to further qualitative and contextual information about the university being ranked (LM).
- Damage limitation activity. Recognises and proactively seeks to limit the systemic effects of rankings. (LM, Adam)
- No unfair advantage. Makes every effort to ensure the approach taken does not discriminate against organisations by size, disciplinary mix, language, wealth, age and geography.

# Workpackage 2: Briefing materials for senior managers

- Set of powerpoint slides with notes to brief senior leaders on responsible research evaluation
- Based on SCOPE model
- Adapted to different settings (CC-BY)
- Translated into many different languages

# Join the conversation!

- Start a conversation about responsible metrics in your own setting
- Start with what you/your institution values
- Join the broader conversation:
  - [INORMS-RES-EVAL@jiscmail.ac.uk](mailto:INORMS-RES-EVAL@jiscmail.ac.uk) discussion list
  - [Lis-Bibliometrics@jiscmail.ac.uk](mailto:Lis-Bibliometrics@jiscmail.ac.uk) discussion list





**Better to light a candle than  
curse the darkness.**

# Thank you for listening

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