

RMIT Business Portfolio & RQF

CRIG Forum

May 12th 2006

RMIT University Library

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Research at RMIT Business

- **Whole portfolio – “*Sustainable Business Practice*”**
- **Research in Schools**
 - Accounting and Law
 - Social and environmental accountability, reporting corporate governance, financial accounting, auditing, e-Business Law.
 - Business Information Technology
 - KM, e-Business, e-Learning, Strategic Information Systems
 - Economics, Finance and Marketing
 - Financial markets, corporate finance and governance, empirical finance, public choice, applied econometrics.
 - Graduate School of Management
 - Business sustainability, sustainable society.
 - Management
 - Health services management, sustainability, HRM, Organisational change, leadership, action learning.
 - All supported by a Business Research Development Unit.

Research at RMIT Business

- **Mostly qualitative, Empirical finance and econometrics – quantitative.**
- **Broad areas with multi discipline focus.**
- **Research has a ‘strong real world focus in applied research’** (RMIT Economics Finance and Marketing 2005)
 - Applied to industry, workplace, government.
- **Centre for Management Quality Research**
- **Co-operative research centres**
 - Construction Innovation, Smart Internet Technology
- **VRII’s- Virtual Research and Innovation Institutes**
 - Provide a way to work across organisational boundaries and disciplines.
 - Business links – Global Sustainability, Globalisation and ICT.
 - Possible realignment of VRII’s to non virtual RII’s to maximise concentration of research to leverage RQF funding

ATN RQF trial 2005

- **Assessing and developing mechanisms and methods for measuring research quality and impact across the participating universities in preparation for RQF**
 - Used case studies to measure impact- importance of evidence gathering to support impact
 - Value and importance of qualitative information highlighted
- **International assessment and benchmarking**
 - RMIT cluster “Sustainability in an urban world”
 - Schools: Social Science and Planning, Architecture and Design, Economics, Finance & Marketing, Education.
 - Library assisting with citation counts- (WOS, Google Scholar, Scopus, Ebsco BSP)
 - Emphasis on a range of factors: peer review, esteem, repeat business, varying types of publication, contribution to govt.

Evidence Portfolio

- **Institutional context & diversity taken into account**
- **Wide range of outcomes considered tailored to discipline and clusters (particularly impact)**
 - ‘.. the inclusion of extended peer groups for assessment of both excellence and impact (including relevant cohorts in industry and Govt) and the broadening of outcomes beyond just scholarly impact through traditional ‘published journal’ categories’ (Furlong 2005)
- **Quality and impact**
 - With orientation to workplace and industry, communities and enterprises – impact factors will play an important role.
 - Like to see broader coverage of impact to include “novel” factors.
 - Publications- weblogs and other forms of media recognised ie. DVD’s CDs (Dalton 2005), open archives and number of “downloads” of online publications.
 - Impact – commercialisation and technology transfer, govt. reports and consultancies, linkages with govt., advice to bodies, contribution to process and policies (not just products)
 - Esteem – honours and awards, membership international boards, election to associations, service to journals, visiting fellowships, interviews of end users.
- **Peak bodies contribute to specific criteria for assessing disciplines and clusters**

Issues

- **First RQF cycle retrospective**
 - Since 1999 Business portfolio;
 - Gone from 34 to over 100 academics publishing papers
 - Research income has grown by 81% (Rodgers and Valadkhani 2006)
- **Inter- disciplinary groups considered**
 - Implications for range of expertise on panels
 - Difficulties in reporting for this kind of cluster
- **Cross institutional activities considered**
 - How will this be included in RQF? Example: Eco, Finance & Marketing School associated with Melbourne Centre for Financial Studies along with Uni of Melbourne and Monash.
- **Early career researchers & HDR completions included**
 - Difficult to assess their impact and encourage their input?

Possible publication issues

- Lack representation Australian titles, narrow research areas and specialist publications in citation indexes
- Small number people highly cited in a small number journals
 - Will funding only go to a few?
- Slow publication cycle, implications for citations appearing.
- Patchy coverage of Social Science disciplines
 - 130/740 economics titles in WOS (Butler 2005)
- Examples
 - Law – Contribution to specialist and local journals may be of more importance than publications in general or international journals.
 - Economics – High incidence of publication of working papers. Not included in WOS, citations for working papers not valid. REPP project – Linda Butler. Looked at novel esteem indicators economics. Downloads papers RePEc data set by registered individuals.
 - IT – Specialist areas, only a couple journals available on WOS & they may only publish quarterly. Difficult to get published.

Library input

- **To assist with the RQF would the following help?**
 - Understand typical publication types in each discipline area and how may affect RQF reporting
 - Understand international research trends, groupings and patterns in discipline.
 - Assess needs of levels of research assistance required
 - Develop knowledge and expertise with relevant citation sources
<http://www.library.unisa.edu.au/research/rqfresources/default.asp>
 - Provide lists of high impact and peer reviewed journals to schools and have these journals in the collection
 - Washington & Lee Law School Law Journals: Submissions and Ranking <http://lawlib.wlu.edu/LJ/index.aspx>
 - General Business: Journal Quality list: Anne Harzing <http://www.harzing.com/resources.htm#/jql.htm>
 - UQ Business School Journal Rankings http://www.business.uq.edu.au/research/resources/jnl_rankings.phtml
 - Improve strength of research collection relevant to disciplines
 - Collect in emerging and cross disciplinary areas