The RQF and Possible Roles for Libraries and Librarians in Education

Peter Macauley
Manager, Faculty of Education Library Services
& Waterfront Campus Library
Deakin University
Why is it Important?

- $$$ for the University
- Good research requires significant funding
- Good research produces quality outcomes
- Credibility & prestige
- Survival
What’s the Library Connection?

- We subscribe to and promote the citation indexes & other resources
- Bibliometrics is a library science (although not exclusively)
- We will probably be involved with RQF submissions
- We may be involved with open access initiatives
Impact Factors

- ISI impact factors tend to dominate

  - However, only 27% coverage by Australian authors in social science disciplines; 74% for Australian authors in sciences (Royle & Over, 1994)
  
  - This issue is yet to be resolved
ISI Coverage of ‘DEST’ Publications by Field
(Source: Linda Butler, ANU, 2006)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Total 'DEST' publications</th>
<th>No. ISI journal publications</th>
<th>% 'DEST' output in ISI</th>
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What Could Count?

- Open access archives
- Media coverage
- Citations in course material
- Influence on professions etc
  - Professional journals, newsletters etc
  - Presentations, consultancies etc
- Teaching?
Issues

- Quality not quantity
- Need for multiple indicators of quality
- Quality measures vary between fields
- ISI impact factors are flawed in many ways
- Ivory tower vs the real world
Issues

- It normally takes time to make an impact
- Playing the game at the expense of more appropriate dissemination of research results
- Bias of science disciplines
- Attempting to quantify quality
- More compliance and cost
What can we do?

- Provide training & access to relevant sources, ie. WoK, Scopus, Ulrichs, DEST
- Encourage open access initiatives
- Encourage researchers to link their outputs to web pages
- Encourage researchers to reflect on the impact of their work, ie. commissioned reports, consultancies, advice to governments, linkages with the profession
What else can we do?

- Get involved in any RQF related projects
- Don’t be overlooked in this exercise
- However, don’t lose sight of the real aims of research
What can researchers do?

- Reflect on & possibly re-focus their research
- Look beyond the nation state with research, where possible
- As a discipline, determine quality, impact & esteem
- Think carefully about the ‘4 outputs’
What else can researchers do?

- Work towards RQF2 … but
- Not let the RQF drive their research too much (the RQF is likely to change)
- Concentrate on high quality research
Questions?