



Australian Government
Australian Research Council

Excellence in Research for Australia

8 September 2009



National
Academies F · O · R · U · M

Objectives of ERA

1. establish an **evaluation framework** that gives government, industry, business and the wider community assurance of the excellence of research conducted in Australia's institutions;
2. provide a national **stocktake** of discipline-level areas of research strength and areas where there is opportunity for development in Australia's higher education institutions;
3. **identify excellence across the full spectrum of research** performance;
4. identify **emerging research areas** and opportunities for further development; and
5. allow for **comparisons of Australia's research nationally and internationally** for all discipline areas.



The ERA Unit of Evaluation

- The **baseline** - the Discipline in an institution = Four-digit Field of Research Code (ANZSRC) eg., **0301 Analytical Chemistry**
- The **higher perspective** – the division in an institution = Two-digit Field of Research Code (ANZSRC) eg., **03 Chemistry**
- The ERA Unit is not the institution or the individual researcher
- UK– Unit is dept in institution, RAE, REF
- NZ – Unit is the individual researcher, PBRF



Evaluation 2009

Outputs

Ranked Journals

Citation Analysis **or** Peer Review

Supporting Information

Volume and Activity – outputs and people

HERDC Research Income

Applied Indicators – Patents and Commercialisation income

2- digit background statement

Discipline profile

Next round – *may* include:

New ranked outlets, esteem measures, applied measures, a potential mix of citation *and* peer review for some disciplines – the ERA indicators consultation document is on the ARC website now

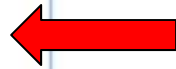


Home

Logout: Ms Liz Visser

For Group: Geochemistry [REDACTED]

Allocated tasks	Background	View indicators	Evaluation
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Select Indicator<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ranked outlet journalsCitation analysisVolume & activityHERDC research incomeApplied indicators			



The Dashboard profiles



Discipline “clusters” are themselves multidisciplinary

- Where ever you draw a boundary there is the potential for division... (person, group, dept, discipline)
- These divisions may move and be redefined over time to create new disciplines at the interface.... e.g biochemistry, materials science

Institutional Codes

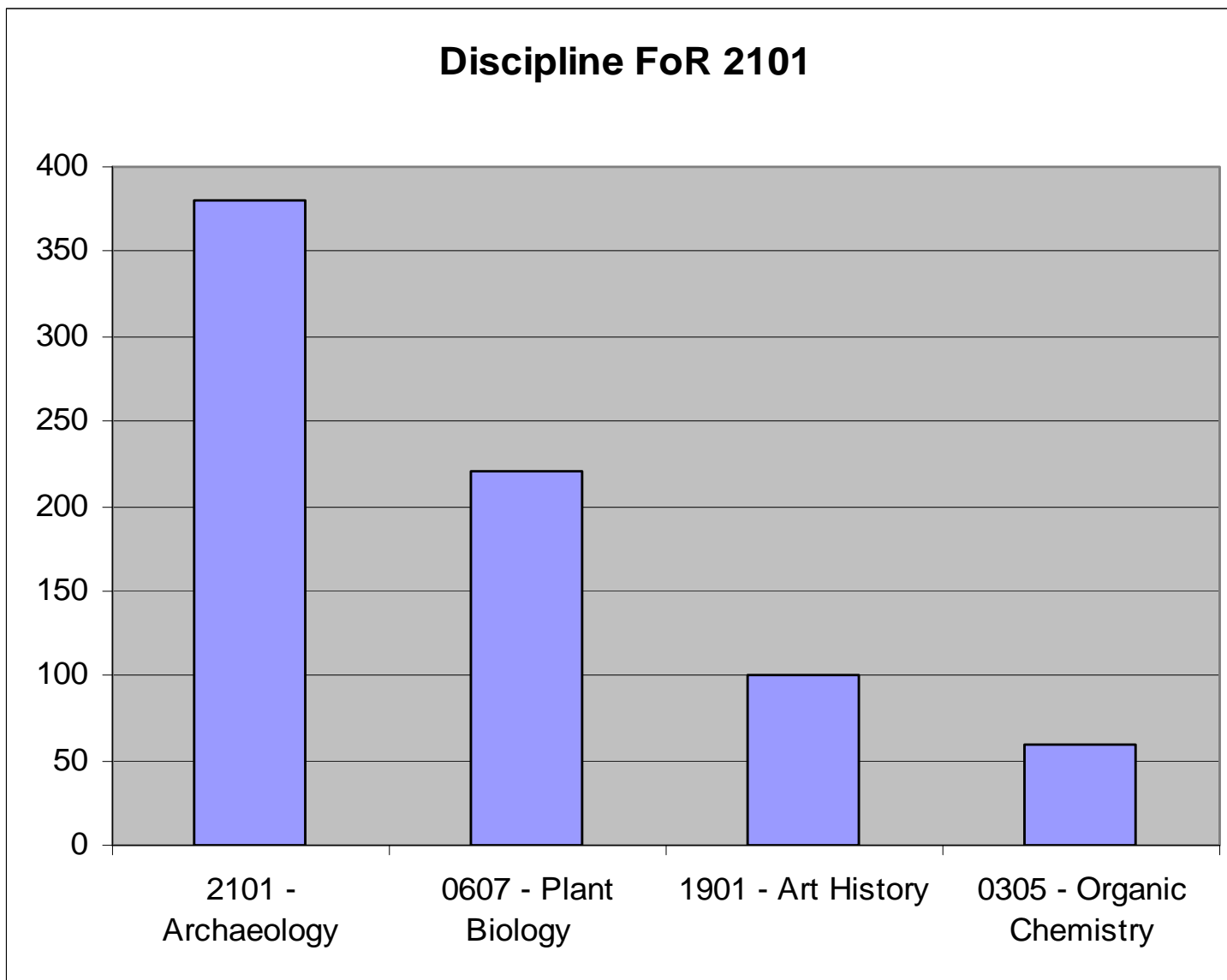
- ERA will enable institutions to devise their own reporting codes that link components of their cluster submission to particular Institutional Units within the institution, such as academic organisation units, research centres, centres of excellence or departments.

Research Themes

- In addition to attributing results to institutional reporting codes a number of cross institutional areas/themes will be indentified and a particular output can be attributed to up to two themes.



Discipline Profile and its use – 4-digit



2009 Trial update

- Full range of trial documents on ARC website for sector
- Physical, Chemical and Earth Sciences – submission and evaluation
- Humanities and Creative Arts – submission and evaluation
- 1st round of consultation for eight clusters done – 2nd round has commenced
- Outreach to universities on trial developments



Next Round

Consultation on:

- best suite of indicators for each discipline
- new esteem measures
- Further consideration about creative works

Key issues:

- Timetable
- confirm matrices for eight clusters
- revisions to submission guidelines
- Trial – lessons learned for next time

ARC



What we have learned so far

ARC

- Linked schema
- Better data validation
- Soft close for submission to allow time to correct errors
- Provision of support to improve institutional publication databases
- Re-assignment of multi-disciplinary outputs

Universities

- Improve quality of institutional databases
- Data handling
- Data linking across indicators
- Ability to analyse ERA results to identify specific strengths
- Missing vital information for evaluation – FTE, authors



ERA Journal Rankings

- The ERA journal list will be reviewed prior to any future ERA round
- The list for journals was updated last week
- The development list has added in new journals but removed duplicates, merged and ceased journals
- The full development list is posted on the ARC website for review
 - Please let us know additions (using the new journal form)
 - Corrections



Summary of key questions 1

- Research Evaluation Committee membership
- Discipline-based and multi-disciplinary research
- FoR coding of people and outputs for ERA – multiple codes, whole count for outputs, and re-aggregation of data for reporting
- Ranked journals – use in evaluation and discipline-specific interpretations in context of holistic assessment
- How does ERA consider researchers in evaluation?

ERA

Summary of key questions 2

- Applied Research in ERA
- **Mythbusting** – weightings, formulae, FTE denominators for productivity
- The use of future ERA data by Government and institutions – strategic policy advice and baseline information for funding negotiations
- Behavioural changes - publishing practices, academic and institutional focus on various indicators

ERA

Summary of key questions 3

- Citations for everyone?
- What about Medical research institutes, and other research agencies
- Overseas interest in ERA approach, also other Australian research agencies
- Internationalising evaluation?
- More questions???



ERA

Further information?

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- Hotline: 02 6287 6755

