



International Association of Egyptologists
Association Internationale des Egyptologues
Internationaler Ägyptologen-Verband
المصريات لعلماء الدولية الرابطة

To the Egyptological Section
Department of History and Archaeology
Macquarie University

Los Angeles, October 6, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

The International Association of Egyptologists strongly endorses your request to the Australian Research Council (ARC) to modify the guidelines used to measure research output and excellence. Excellence in Research in Australia (ERA) needs to take into account that Egyptology is a humanistic endeavor and that its publications typically have a long “shelf life”. With the ongoing destruction of cultural heritage, the work that Egyptologists do preserves knowledge for future generations in the long term.

Furthermore, Egyptology is a relatively small and very broad field, in which much information is published in book form. This means that citation indexes as used in the sciences are not applicable. Thirdly, the dearth of Egyptologists in Australia (Macquarie being the only Australian university with an Egyptology program) means that review of disciplinary excellence should involve international experts.

Public interest in and impact of Egyptology is large, but it is not straightforward to outline the specific impact of particular research. As in many disciplines, research does not translate directly into a message that is fit for public consumption, even if it certainly contributes to a deeper understanding.

We hope that the Australian Research Council will take your arguments seriously and will collaborate on defining a fair and practical way of measuring research output and excellence in Egyptology. The International Association of Egyptologists is always prepared to answer requests for help in that process.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'W' followed by a series of loops and a horizontal line at the end.

Willeke Wendrich
President International Association of Egyptologists