

How do you know you're making an impact?

RESEARCH
IMPACT
CANADA

RÉSEAU **IMPACT**
RECHERCHE
CANADA

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Turning research into action | De la recherche à l'action

where is research impact?

- Funders
- Donors
- Projects
- Networks
- Commercialization
- Entrepreneurship
- Bibliometrics



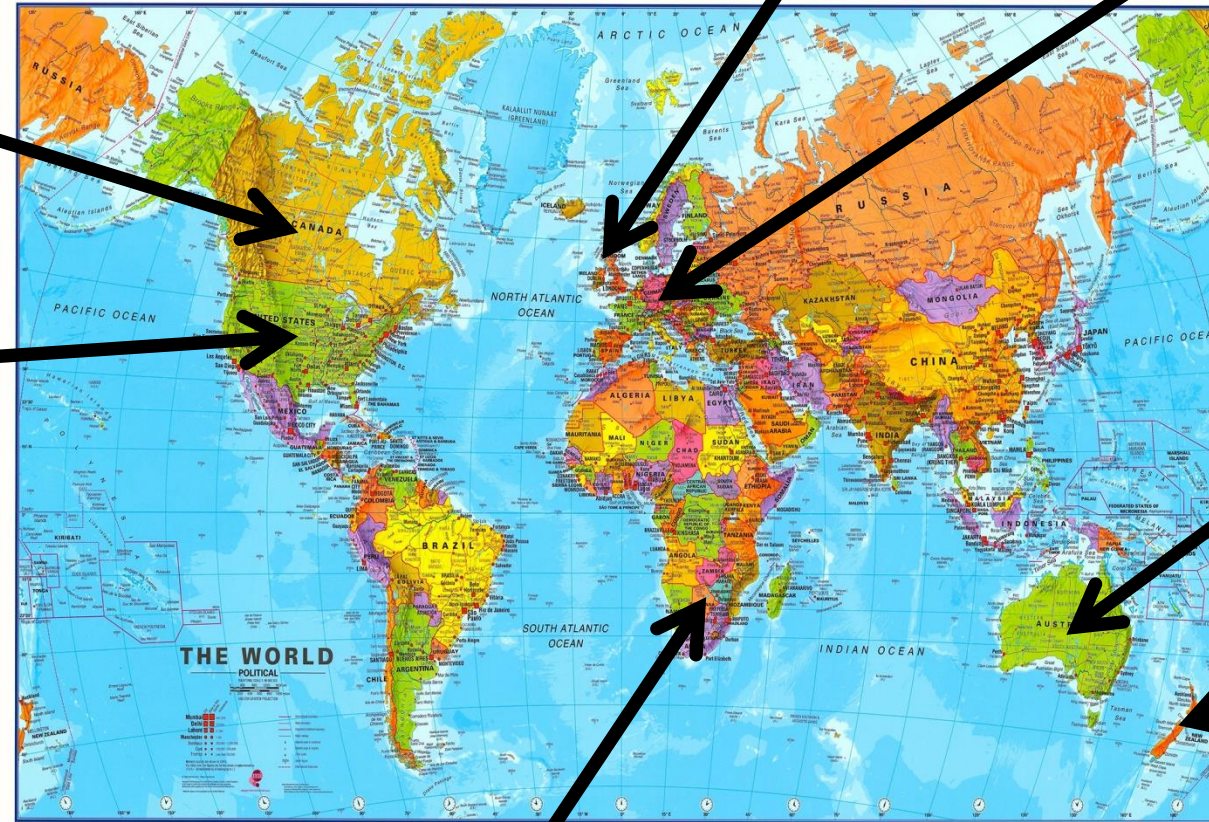
some examples of impact systems

REF2021 Research
Excellence
Framework



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Turning
research
into action



Australian Government
Australian Research Council



MISSION DRIVEN

DRUSSA
Development Research Uptake
in Sub-Saharan Africa

ASSESSMENT DRIVEN



Performance Based Research Fund (2018 assessment year)

Research outputs: 70%

Research Contributions: 30%

- Maximum 15 examples of
 - Peer esteem
 - Contributions to the discipline/environment (i.e. grad student supervision)
 - Funding
 - Awards/prizes
 - Capacity building
 - Peer review
 - Invitations to present
 - Outreach & engagement (narrative)
 - Uptake & impact (narrative)

2007: PBRF allocated \$231M



1. Excellence in Research for Australia (2018 assessment year)

2. Engagement and Impact Assessment (2018 assessment year)

a) Engagement

- a) Cash support from research end-users (specified HERDC* Category 1 and Categories 2, 3, and 4).
- b) HERDC research income (specified Category 1 and Categories 2, 3, and 4) per FTE.
- c) Proportion of specified HERDC Category 1 grants to total HERDC Category 1
 - i. grant amount
 - ii. number of grants
- d) Research commercialisation income

b) Impact

- a) qualitative information in the form of impact studies, supplemented with quantitative information if relevant (impact and approach to impact are rated separately)
 - a) the impact of the research (case study)
 - b) the approach to impact



Australian Government

Australian Research Council

2013 ERA cost \$34.5M reviewing \$8.7B research invested during assessment period but no financial return from assessment



*Higher Education Research Data Collection: gov't ministries, industry associations, health charities

REF2014
Research Excellence Framework

The research of **154**
UK universities was assessed



They made **1,911** submissions including:

- **52,061** academic staff
- **191,150** research outputs
- **6,975** impact case studies

The **overall quality** of submissions was judged,
on average to be:

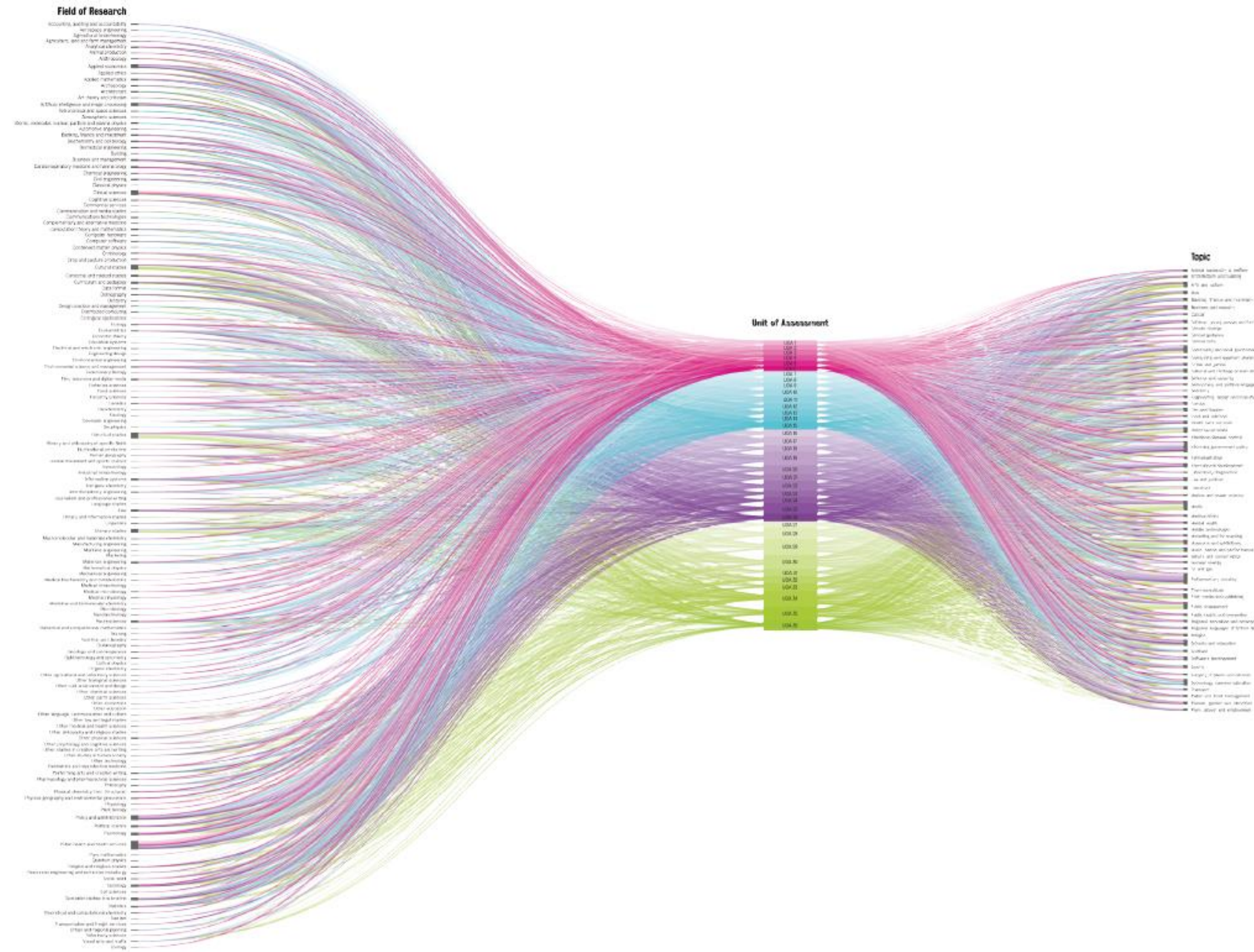
★★★★★ **30%** world-leading (4*)

★★★★ **46%** internationally excellent (3*)

★★★ **20%** recognised internationally (2*)

★ **3%** recognised nationally (1*)





- 6,975 impact case studies
- 149 fields of research
- 60 impact topics
- 36 UoAs
- 3,709 unique pathways to impact
- £7,000/REF submission (estimate)
- £246M total cost (£55M for panel assessment)
- £2B funding allocated

Impact case study (REF3b)



Institution:
Unit of Assessment:
Title of case study:
1. Summary of the impact (indicative maximum 100 words)
2. Underpinning research (indicative maximum 500 words)
3. References to the research (indicative maximum of six references)
4. Details of the impact (indicative maximum 750 words)
5. Sources to corroborate the impact (indicative maximum of 10 references)

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*A globally leading network that enables
researchers and their partners to demonstrate
contribution to and impact of research excellence*





Australian Government
Australian Research Council



Research Impact case study

Institution:
Title of case study:
1. Summary of the impact (briefly describing the impact of the research beyond the academy, see guidelines)
2. Contribution of research and/or expertise (describe the academic and non-academic research and/or expertise that underpins the impact, see guidelines)
3. References to the research and/or expertise (maximum of six references that describe the underlying research and/or expertise)
4. Details of the impact (describe in detail the nature, extent, reach, sustainability, stakeholders and beneficiaries of the impact summarized in #1 above)
5. Sources to corroborate the impact (how do you know this impact occurred – cite data sources, interviews with stakeholders and researchers, see guidelines)
6. Role of knowledge mobilization contributing to the impact (describe the activities undertaken by the RIR institution to support, communicate and/or enhance the impacts)



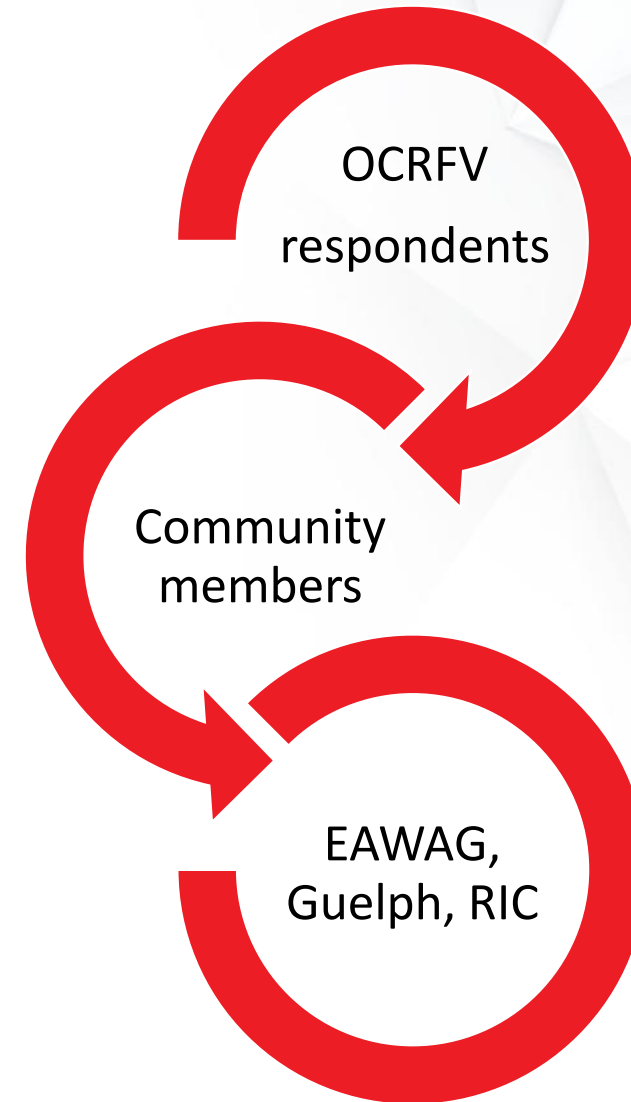
Interview questions (from contribution analysis)

- 1. Context:** a) History; b) Role; c) Inputs; d) were these resources adequate; e) who had control over these resources?
- 2. Responsibility:** a) Activities; b) Responsibility; c) Other roles?
- 3. Engagement/involvement:** a) People; b) How were you engaged; c) Gaps; d) Others to engage; e) Others – what if they had been engaged?
- 4. Awareness/reaction:** a) Aims; b) Beliefs; c) Reaction
- 5. Capacity/knowledge/skills:** a) What capacity/skills did you need; b) did you have the resources to do so?
- 6. Changes:** a) For you; b) More broadly; c) Unanticipated
- 7. Impact:** a) longer term change; b) Attribution - other factors involved
- 8. Next Steps:** a) Current state – are you still engaged in the project; b) Where to from here?





- 4 interviews
- 15 hours (not including transcription)
- Approx. \$1,500 (vs £7,000/REF submission)





*Hand*ⁱⁿ*Hand*
Growing Together Every Day



Social Three colorful blocks with the letters A, B, and C on them.



prospectively





