




The First Page

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Outside Opinion
Sept 12 2019

Page 1 of the research proposal

The first page of the application

- The scheme and the year
 - Title of the project
 - Name of CI and team members
 - Title and place of employment
 - FOR codes
 - SEO codes
 - Summary of project
- 

Discovery Program

Australian
Laureate
Fellowships

Future
Fellowships

DECRA



Discovery
Indigenous

Discovery Projects

Linkage Program

Centres of Excellence

SRI's

ITRP

LIEF

LASP

Linkage
Projects

Discovery projects

The objectives of the Discovery Projects scheme are to:

- support excellent basic and applied research by individuals and teams
- encourage high-quality research and research training
- enhance international collaboration in research
- expand Australia's knowledge base and research capability
- enhance the scale and focus of research in the Science and Research Priorities.




DP Criteria

- **Investigator(s)** **35%**
- **Project Quality and Innovation** **40%**
- **Feasibility** **10%**
- **Benefit** **15%**



Project quality and innovation (40%)

- Does the research address a significant problem?
 - Is the conceptual/theoretical framework innovative and original?
 - What is the potential for the research to contribute to the Science and Research Priorities?
 - Will the aims, concepts, methods and results advance knowledge?
 - What is the potential for the research to enhance international collaboration?
- 

Linkages

The objectives of the Linkage Projects scheme are to:

- support the initiation and/or development of long-term strategic research alliances between higher education organisations and other organisations, including industry and other research end-users,
in order to
- apply advanced knowledge to problems and/or to provide opportunities to obtain national economic, commercial, social or cultural benefits



Linkages

- provide opportunities for internationally competitive research projects to be conducted in collaboration with organisations outside the higher education sector, targeting those who have demonstrated a clear commitment to high-quality research
- encourage growth of a national pool of world-class researchers to meet the needs of the broader Australian innovation system
- build the scale and focus of research in the national Science and Research Priorities.

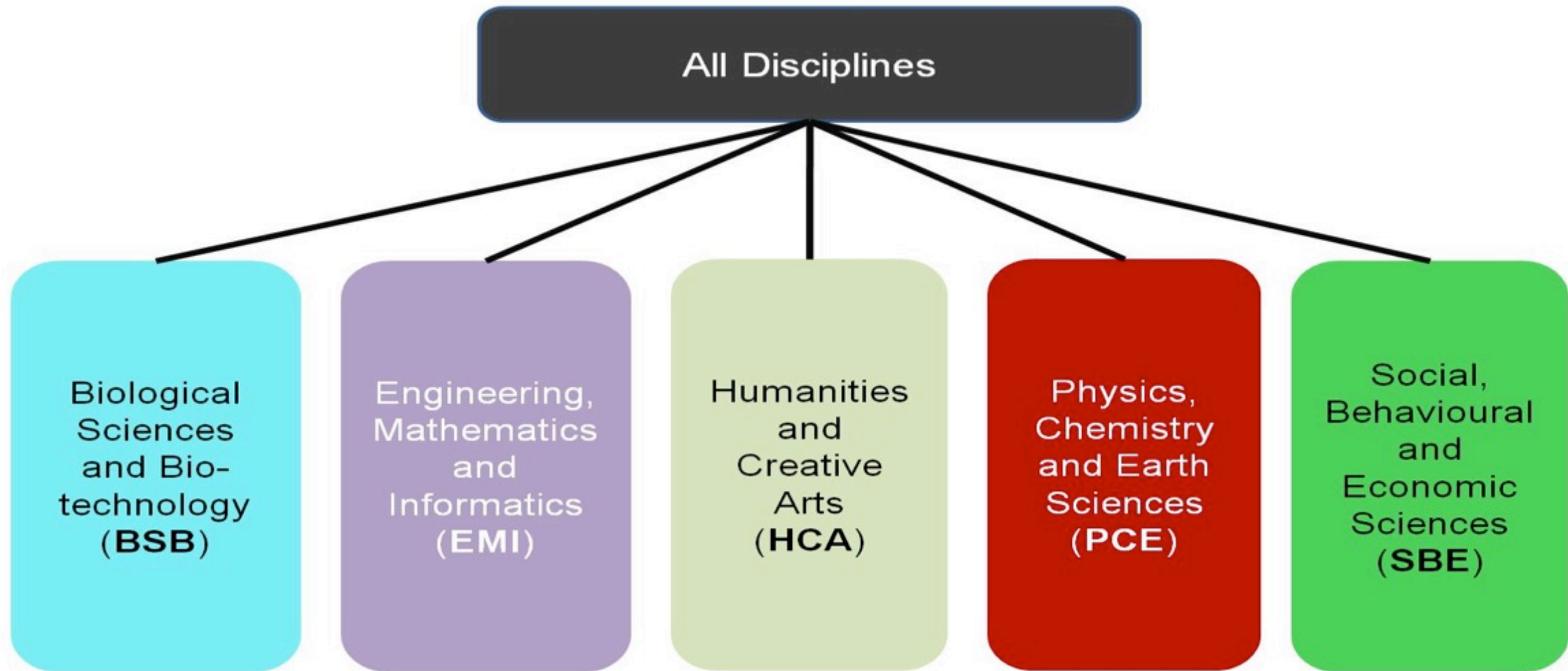


Criteria

Investigator(s)	25%
Project Quality and Innovation	25%
Feasibility	20%
Benefit	30%



The Grants Peer Review Process



The Grants Peer Review Process



ARC Assignment Information


- This information is then matched to information stored against a potential assessor's profile and presented in a similar word cloud



- The most appropriate person is then selected and assigned to the proposal to assess.

High ranked proposals

Successful proposals:

- Delineate a problem/object that is presently unresolved or unknown, or insufficiently developed or clarified
 - Show that they are seeking funding to generate new knowledge or creatively re-interpret existing knowledge
 - Open up a new conceptual domain or formulate an unresolved empirical problem
 - Show that the team has the experience to deliver (in various ways)
 - Show that they have the means and the plan and the methods
- 


Low ranked proposals

- Fail to formulate a sufficiently clear and precise research question or aim
OR are not really proposing to do research
- Often several different questions/aims are in play.
- Result is that the object of investigation remains unclear (with knock-on effects for design and methods).

- Beg the question/assume the answer
- Are seeking a grant to fund publication of research already undertaken.
- Are wedded to a theory or method that solves all problems in advance (undermining design).



Pitfalls with Linkage projects

- The project should solve an important problem in partnership
 - It should not be a consultancy
 - It should not be an evaluation
 - It should not just test a model, tool or device
 - It should be open-ended research that is generalisable
 - It should have national or international significance
 - Scalability?
 - Translation?
 - Investment in longer-term research/ the 'innovation system'
- 

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Stages in developing an application

Stages in developing an ARC research proposal

- Understanding the scheme
- Reading and preliminary research
- Finding a place in 'the field'
- Crafting track record, team, field and intervention
- From team and partnership to **research question**
- From question to plan and budget
- Question, aims, methods, outcomes, impact
- From aims, method ,budget and impact plan to mature proposal



Put the team together

- What expertise do you have to address the question?
- Disciplinary mix?
- Place in the field or fields?
- Experienced research leader and project manager
- High quality publications or outputs in a steady flow – with evidence they are read and influential
- Evidence of broader engagement, international profile
- Supervision, mentoring, capacity-building
- Innovation in publishing, communication, reaching audiences

- If the team is so great, why do you need to employ other people??




The rhetoric of a grant proposal

- It is not an essay
- You are not arguing a case or demonstrating knowledge
- Outline the design of an investigation in this field, by this team, in this way.
- The proposal should not be a flowing discourse but a series of statements
- Aims, background, THIS TEAM, significance, innovation, approach, outcomes, impact, benefit




Structure of a proposal

- Begin with the statement of a single central question or problem, which you propose to investigate.
 - Convert into a General Aim, and unfold in a series of (three or four) sub-aims (using dot-points, numbered lists, etc.).
 - Motivation for the research is provided via an account of the current state of the research field ('Background').
 - Include a literature review showing gaps in the existing field.
 - Argue for funding to support inquiry that fills the gap, addresses the need for new knowledge and understanding
- 

Page 1 of the application

The first page of the project description

- Identifies the reason why research should be done and intrigues the reader
 - Explains the gap in knowledge and the need for investment in research
 - Outlines the field – explains where the inquiry fits
 - Tells people in the discipline field that the CI is expert
 - Explains to people outside the field what kind of study this is, in what discipline/s
 - Displays erudition and insight very economically
 - Puts the argument that an intervention in the field is needed
 - Asks a very interesting question
 - Displays credibility and puts an argument that this team is uniquely placed to deliver
- 

The Research Question

Should:


- Provide a clear and succinct formulation of an original object of inquiry.
- Explain what we don't know or understand – and why research is needed.
- Ask an interesting open-ended question with a clear object of investigation.
- Indicate the potential of the investigation to change an existing research field.
- Be capable of being broken down into a compact set of sub-questions that indicate:
 - the key components of the question
 - the main elements/stages of the project.




What do we need to know or understand?

- Something very interesting is happening
- We think we know about it.... but here's what we don't know or understand.
- We need to know now.
- Here's why we don't know. We need to ask new/better questions
- Asking and answering these questions requires expertise/ a new approach
- We need to investigate in this way, with scope and limits
- There are challenges (it's hard), but they can be addressed in this way.
- The outcomes will be important.
- The impact will be broader. You can trust us with public money. It'll be worth it

Common problems in proposal drafting

- Throat clearing
 - General promises to make theoretical breakthroughs – vs. asking an interesting and theoretically informed question
 - Waiting to reveal the fascinating detail of the inquiry
 - Preaching or advocating rather than investigating
 - Proposing activities that cannot answer the research question
 - Proposing engagement and public deliberation for its own sake
 - Assembling case studies to no apparent purpose
 - Conducting comparative work for no apparent reason
 - Appealing to ‘mixed methods’ when the methodology is unclear
- 

What will help? Two page planning summary

- Project Title
 - Central Research Question/Problem (no more than 200 words)
 - Sub-Aims (unpacking the central question into key steps)
 - Basic Methods and Design
 - Expected Outcomes (publications, reports, etc.)
 - Brief Track Record (covering the relevant time-frame for DP, DECRA, or FF).
 - Budget (brief – personnel, travel, other support)
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Investigating the question

Research Program

- Outline the activities that will actually be done in the project;
- Demonstrate that the activities possess innovative approaches, methods, and suitable scale
- Show that the activities have the capacity to contribute to and change an existing research field or intellectual domain;
- Indicate the research stages through which the global question will be investigated.



- The rhetoric is not that of ‘showing’, ‘demonstrating’ and ‘arguing’, but that of ‘posing’, ‘hypothesising’, ‘inquiring’ and ‘investigating’.
- In the Aims and Background sections the emphasis should fall on what is not known in the field rather than what is already known.
- The role of what is already known (Background and associated ROPE) is to provide the research platform from which the project will reach toward something new and presently unknown.
- The rhetoric should be aspirational and intellectually exciting
- Jargon and technical terms should be avoided as far as possible; when unavoidable they should be accompanied by a short gloss on their first use.



Who am I writing for ?

- In Discovery Projects, the multidisciplinary panellists from the College of Experts.
- The 2 panel members ('carriages') who will have carriage of your application, one of whom might be in your discipline area
- 3-6 expert assessors, disciplinary experts.


- The Project Summary, Objectives and Benefit and Impact Statement should be written in plain language for a non-expert reader, providing a clear and succinct statement of the objective and significance of the project
- The Aims and Background sections might then be written such that they are fully intelligible to members of a related series of disciplines (HCA or SBE)




- Disciplinary experts can be envisaged as the prime readers of the project description, in particular with regards to the current state of the field and the development of new concepts, methods, formalisms, technologies and experimental designs.
- However, you should do everything possible to present your research activities such that they are at least broadly intelligible to the whole panel.
- Provide some 'hooks' to keep the non-expert engaged:
 - simple statements that summarise particularly detailed sections meant for the expert
 - use highlighting to make these stand out from complex text
 - perhaps a figure, graph, table to help visualise the issue(s)
- DON'T dumb it down BUT DO make it accessible



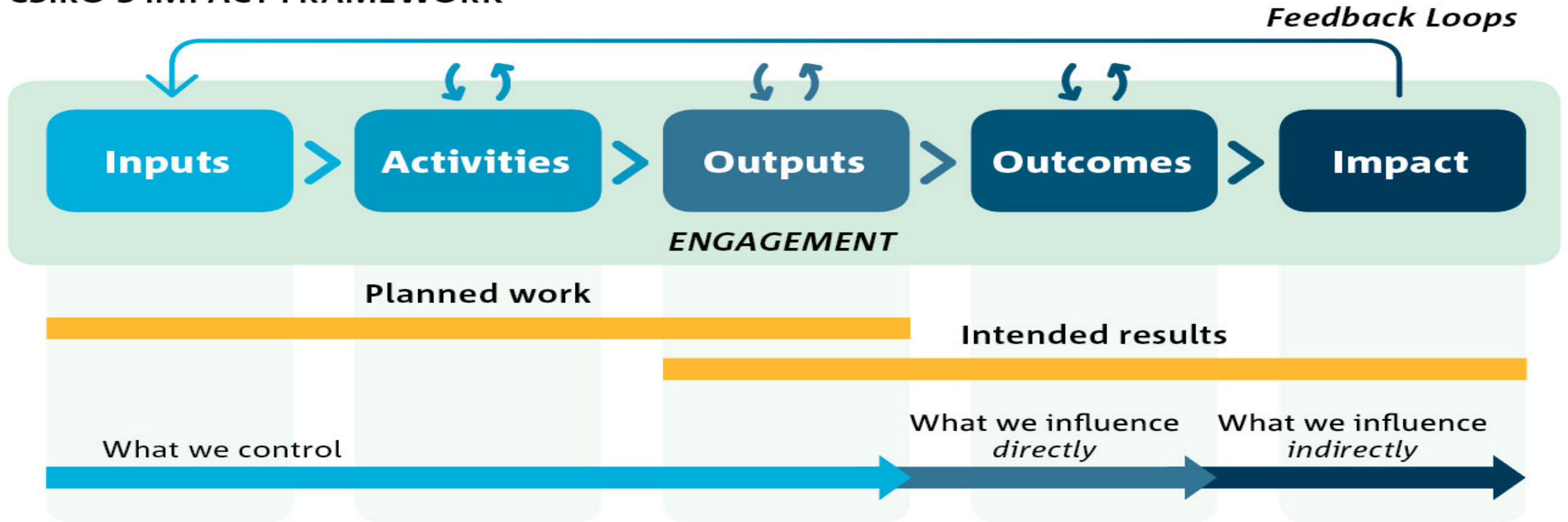
The problem, the field, the intervention, the question

- Summarise the state of the field(s) in which the project intervenes.
 - Key scholars and works that define this state
 - Why do key problems remain unresolved? theoretical, methodological or empirical reasons
 - What needs to be done/solved/refined?
 - Why now?
 - What expertise and disciplinary understanding is required? (why you?)
 - Why is this project therefore significant and innovative?
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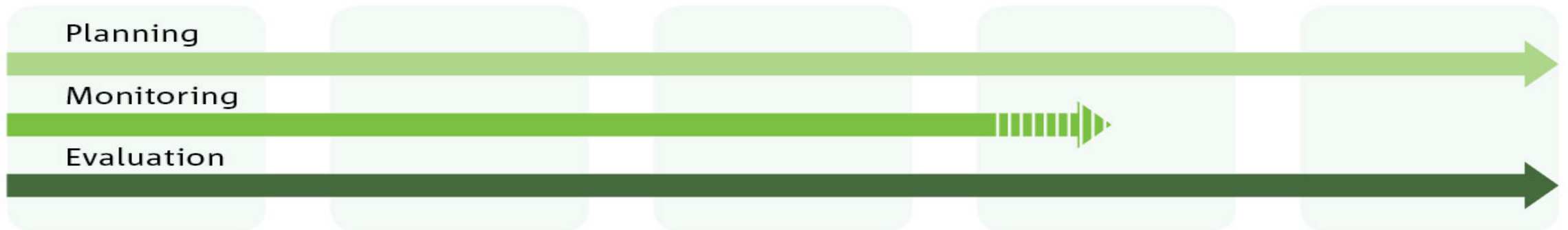
Approach and outcomes

- Show how this project will address these gaps, thus making a contribution to knowledge.
 - Using the question and subquestions, lay out the manner in which the research will be conducted
 - Sequence of phases, methods employed, team responsibilities, time-line, conclusion, writing and dissemination.
 - Feasibility and benefits, including risks
 - Outcomes
 - Impact pathway
- 

CSIRO'S IMPACT FRAMEWORK



IMPACT ACTIVITY



Research Impact Pathway

Inputs	Activities	Outputs	Outcomes	Benefits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Research income ● Staff ● Background IP ● Infrastructure ● Collections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Research Work and Training ● Workshop/Conference Organising ● Facility Use ● Membership of Learned Societies and Academies ● Community and Stakeholder Engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Publications including E-Publications ● Additions to National Collections ● New IP: Patents and Inventions ● Policy Briefings ● Media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Commercial Products, Licences and Revenue ● New Companies – Spin offs, Start Ups or Joint Ventures ● Job Creation ● Implementation of Programs and Policy ● Citations ● Integration into Policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Economic, Health, Social, Cultural, Environmental, National Security, Quality of Life, Public Policy or Services ● Higher Quality Workforce ● Job Creation ● Risk Reduction in Decision Making

Back to the very first page: Project summary, benefit and impact

A4 Application summary

Provide an Application Summary (which is used by the Minister to consider the application), focusing on the aims, significance, expected outcomes and benefits of this project.

Write the Application Summary simply, clearly and in plain English.

If the application is successful, the Application Summary is used to give the general community an understanding of the research.

Avoid the use of acronyms, quotation marks and upper case characters.

(No more than 750 characters, approximately 100 words)



ARC advice on project summaries

Application Summaries must follow this format:

Aims:

- (For example: **This project aims to** *address/investigate/review ...; by utilising/advancing/conceptualising ...*)

Significance:

- (For example: **This project expects to** *generate new knowledge in the area of ... using an innovative approach/ using interdisciplinary approaches/ utilising new techniques ...*)

Expected outcomes:

- (For example: **Expected outcomes of this project include...***enhanced capacity to build institutional/disciplinary collaborations/theory development/refined methods/improved techniques...*)

Benefits:

- (For example: **This should provide significant benefits**, such as ...)
- Examples of Application Summaries for funded projects can be found on the [ARC website](#).



Benefit and impact

Outline the intended benefit and impact of the project

Outline the benefit and intended path to impact of the research, indicating how the project addresses the objectives of the grant opportunity.

Ensure that both “outcomes” and “benefits” are included in the statement

Examples of research impact or the path to impact could include things such as broader job creation (excluding employment of the research team), revenue earned, or evidence of research advice or methodologies being successfully adopted by end-users, government or other organisations.



Textual Infrastructures: Digitization and the immersive reading experience

Summary

This study aims to investigate how reading and literature work in the post-print age. It asks what determines these forms, which books are digitised, who can access them and how these changes influence our reading experiences.

The project expects to generate new knowledge by using an interdisciplinary methodology to investigate factors involved in digitization cases studies like Trove, Google Books and AustLit.

Expected outcomes for the study include a history of digitization and policies that govern it, and recommendations for cultural infrastructure projects nationally and internationally.

This will provide significant benefits including improved knowledge and policy for the future protection and development of digital text technologies.



Textual Infrastructures: Digitization and the immersive reading experience

Benefit

Digitization is the future of the preservation of and access to Australia's literary and cultural record and yet its implementation is not well understood.

This project will improve national and international understanding and inclusion of digitization and born-digital preservation strategies across cultural infrastructure projects, which will both improve the delivery of digitization projects and broaden our understanding of the impact for the literary and cultural record of digitization activities.

In doing so, the project aims to support and benefit services and practices in the public cultural heritage sector such as digitization and the building of platforms and infrastructure and to inform policy such as the NCRIS Roadmap process.



Textual Infrastructures: Digitization and the immersive reading experience

Para 1 Project description: FINAL

The future of the textual record is digital. Yet the approach we take to the digitization process is short-term, distributed, funding-challenged and disconnected from research.

As the foundations for a new digital textual era are cemented, we need to ask how we envisage the future of the textual record.

We pay attention to how being born- digital affects reading and literary experience (Mangen 2017; Baron 2015; Barnett 2014, 2015) but digitization – the taking of the material text and making it digital – is frequently understood merely as a technical function or a resourcing issue, and notions of access and copyright subsume the debate.

Australia is home to some of the world's best practice in digitization and the digital representation of our literary and cultural record, but research is urgently required to understand how these projects fit together, how digitization affects the reading experience and how existing and future digitization projects can be enhanced by a coherent digitization strategy.



Textual Infrastructures: **Para 1 Project description: FIRST Version**

The future of cultural and text preservation is almost entirely digital. Yet the approach we take as a national and disciplines in the humanities has so far been piecemeal, short-term, funding driven and blinkered.

Digitization of the cultural record is evolving, all-encompassing and largely uncritical. If we only consider digitization as technical process we cannot understand how our cultural record is framed, and thereby understood, used or valued.

The Government's Infrastructure Roadmap Policy process has ensured space for the discussion of Humanities infrastructure but this needs to be underpinned by research from the sector. There is very little discussion of how the international and interdisciplinary project of cultural digitization is progressing beyond the technical or institutional contexts.

This project aims to develop a detailed and rigorous understanding of the history and experience of text and cultural digitization projects, processes and outputs in and relating to Australia, to bring together cutting edge research on the theoretical frameworks for digitization as a cultural practice and develop recommendations for progressing with digitization as a cultural strategy.



Textual Infrastructures: Digitization and the immersive reading experience

Para 1 Project description: FINAL

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Australia is home to some of the world's best practice in digitization and the digital representation of our literary and cultural record, but research is urgently required to understand how these projects fit together, how digitization affects the reading experience and how existing and future digitization projects can be enhanced by a coherent digitization strategy.



Aims: Early draft

1. To develop new frameworks and discourse for understanding or theorizing digitization as a cultural practice that take into account the hidden factors of digitization
2. To influence individual, institutional and policy practice around the digitization of texts and cultural objects beyond the technical or funding issues'
3. To understand how gatekeeping in digitization operates at the macro (infrastructure) and micro (individual decision-making) levels and develop new knowledge about its impact and implications for the digitized cultural record and the immersive literary experience



Aims: final draft

- 1. To research and write a cultural history of digitization through a focus on a series of case studies on Trove, Google Books and the Hathi Trust, the fate of Australian texts in mass digitization projects, AustLit and AusStage as two significant Australian digital cultural projects, and Microsoft's relationship with the British Library.**
- 2. To theorise digitization as a cultural practice and develop new frameworks and discourse for the role of digitization in preserving, providing access to and framing the literary record.**
- 3. To develop a survey of digitization experiences, which explores interactions with digitization through a multi-stakeholder analysis.**
- 4. To consider these findings against policy and policy deliberation processes at both national (the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS) Roadmap) and institutional levels (cultural organisations' digitization strategies).**
- 5. To develop new approaches to understanding the impact of digitization on policy, practice and scholarship.**



The project will achieve these aims by producing:

- **The first history of cultural digitization**
- **A digitization experiences survey that examines how segments of society interact with digitized cultural objects.**
- **A new conceptual framework for understanding text and cultural digitization as a cultural practice**





Enriching the scholarly argument

Thank you

