Definition of Research

In considering creative works and other non-traditional research outputs, research is defined in the same way as it is for conventional outputs; as the creation of new knowledge. Research is defined as creative and systematic work undertaken in order to increase the stock of knowledge – including knowledge of humankind, culture and society – and to devise new applications of available knowledge. For an activity to be research it must satisfy five core criteria:

1. To be aimed at new findings (novel);
2. To be based on original, not obvious, concepts and hypotheses (creative);
3. To be uncertain about the final outcomes (uncertain);
4. To be planned and budgeted (systematic); and
5. To lead to results that could be possibly reproduced (transferable and/or reproducible).

This definition encompasses pure and basic research, applied research and experimental development.

Professional Practice

Creative works research outputs are not to be confused with professional practice which is identified as the application of one's knowledge in a particular profession. This application may advance or extend the knowledge of the individual researcher.[2]

Research Contribution

Research contribution must be demonstrated either by evidence of advancement or extension of knowledge or by innovation.

Advancement or Extension of Knowledge:

The creation of works that advance or extend knowledge within and/or beyond a relevant field of research (rather than solely extending the knowledge of the individual researcher). The output has enhanced, or is likely to enhance, knowledge, thinking, understanding and/or practice in the relevant field. The work has developed new ideas or new data, and/or initiated new methods and forms of expression.

Innovation:

The creation of work exhibiting a high degree of originality, challenging conventions.

Research Significance

Research significance must be demonstrated either by evidence of research excellence; and/or by peer review.

Evidence of Research Excellence:

The formal quality assurance processes associated with the publication of traditional research outputs, like the involvement of recognised commercial book publishers, are frequently unavailable for creative works and research reports. To ensure that only quality research outputs are reported, various other indicators of excellence are used.

EVIDENCE OF PEER REVIEW:

There are four main avenues for peer review:

- print or electronic critical or scholarly essays, articles, reviews, conference papers, etc, acknowledging the output and written by peers;
- recognition through short-listing, prizes, awards, or honours, reviewed and judged by a panel of peers;
- commissioning through a peer review process;
- competitively funded grant schemes.

Research Statement

A research statement that captures information should be developed once it has been determined that an output meets the definition of research and demonstrates both research contribution and research significance. All research outputs, including portfolios, must be submitted together with a research statement i.e. a written statement of no more than 1,900 characters which identifies the research component of the output.

Portfolios

A portfolio is a collection of research outputs. It is made up of two or more research outputs from the same underlying research endeavour that on their own may not meet the definition of research, but when collated, have coherent research content.

Supporting Evidence

Copies of verification documentation are required to be attached to the output record as supporting evidence. Distinction needs to be made between a copy of the work itself and those materials which demonstrate the research component, peer review, scale or impact.

Mandatory verification requirements for submission include:

- A digital copy of the work;
- Evidence of peer review/excellence;
- Evidence of public availability;
- Evidence of affiliation to the ANU; and
- Research Statement (if eligible for ERA) or Project Description (if intended to be part of a portfolio).

Research Activity Categories

The * indicates outputs which are currently ERA eligible but are dependent on meeting the mandatory provision of evidence.

Book related:

- Books: including authored*, edited, revision/new edition, reference work, imported from Scopus *et al.*
- Book Chapter*: including imported from Scopus *et al.*

Journal Article:

- peer-reviewed*: including book review, editorial/opinion piece, commentary, imported from Scopus *et al.*

Conference related:

- peer-reviewed*, non-peer-reviewed, presentation, abstract, poster, panel, workshop, imported from Scopus *et al.*

Invention:*

- Patent, Plant Breeder's Rights, Registered Design, NHMRC Endorsed Guideline

Research Report:*

- Public Sector, Industry, Not-for-Profit, Other

Creative Works:

- Original Creative Work*: including Visual Art, Design/Architectural, Textual, Music Composition, Sound Recording, Multimedia, Music Technology, Other: non-scholarly translation, other
- Live Performance Creative Work*: Music, Play, Dance, Other
- Recorded/rendered Creative Work*: Audio/Visual, Performance, Inter-Arts, Digital, Website/Web-based Exhibition, Other
- Curated or Produced Public Exhibition and Events*: Web-based, Exhibition/Event, Festival, Other

Other:

- Legal Case
- Newspaper/Magazine Article/Blog/Social Media
- Other research activity not elsewhere described

NTROs: 'Creative Works' Sub-Categories based on ERA Guidelines 2018:

Original Creative Work:

- Visual Art: fine arts and crafts work, diagram, map, photographic image, sculpture or installation;
- Design/Architectural: a realised, constructed, fabricated or unrealised building and design project;
- Textual Work: Written research outputs that are not eligible for submission as traditional research outputs, eg novel, art review, exhibition catalogue and catalogue entry, scholarly edition (including digital edition) and scholarly translation;
- Music Composition: the expression in an appropriate medium of original musical ideas that leads to new knowledge and/or advances the development and understanding of the creative arts;
- Sound Recording: the expression in an appropriate medium of original sound recording ideas that leads to new knowledge and/or advances the development and understanding of the creative arts.
- Multimedia: the expression in an appropriate medium of original multimedia ideas that leads to new knowledge and/or advances the development and understanding of the creative arts.
- Music Technology: the expression in an appropriate medium of original music technology that leads to new knowledge and/or advances the development and understanding of the creative arts.
- Other: Original creative works that do not fit the other research output types, technical standards and non-scholarly translation.

Live Performance Creative Work:

- Music, Play or Dance: New work or a demonstrably new or innovative interpretation or production of existing work.
- Other: other live performance of creative works not listed above. New work of demonstrably new or innovative interpretation or production of existing work.

Recorded/Rendered Creative Work:

- Audio/Visual Recording: Research output presented in an audio-visual format such as a film, documentary, podcast or other audio-visual presentations;
- Performance: Performance (in music, dance, theatre, etc) created specifically for a recorded medium;
- Inter-Arts: Recorded/rendered creative work, often experimental, produced in association with other researchers in other disciplinary fields;
- Digital: Digital creative work, including creative 3D model, digital output of architectural and design projects, interactive computer applications, computer program, computer game, and visual artworks;
- Website/Web-based Exhibition: This is eligible as a recorded/rendered creative work if the eligible researcher is the creator of the creative work featured in the website. Curated web based exhibition of the creative works of others must be submitted as curated or produced substantial public exhibition and event.
- Other: Other recorded/rendered creative works not listed above.

Curated or Produced Public Exhibitions and Events:

- Web-based: The curation and/or production of an internet website presenting a collection of creative works where the internet is the medium of the exhibited works;
- Exhibition/Event: The curation and/or production of creative works exhibited in a recognised gallery, museum or similar venue, in order to show new works or a different arrangement of works.
- Festival: The curation of a festival bringing together innovative work or existing works in an innovative format or through a theme that provides new perspectives and/or experiences.
- Other: Curated or substantial public exhibitions and events that do not fit into the above categories of the curated or produced substantial public exhibitions and events research output types above, e.g. archaeological, scientific or other material objects.

NTROs: 'Research Report'

A report based on original research undertaken on a systematic basis to increase the stock of knowledge in the areas of government and non-government policy and practice, which has been commissioned or solicited by:

- an Australian, state, territory, local, foreign, or international government body or organization
- a company, industry organization, industry peak body, or employer/employee association
- a discipline recognized body or organization operating in the not-for-profit sector
- a recognised organisation other than the above, provided the organization is external to the researcher's own institution.

The types of works that may not meet this criterion include:

- submissions to public inquiries and consultations
- policy blogs or online commentaries/articles
- briefing notes
- internal ANU reports
- confidential or unpublished reports
- chapter or section of minor report
- reports that are only available to the commissioning body (ie are not publicly available)