



Charles Sturt
University

Creative Works Assessment Guidelines

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Office of Research Services
Charles Sturt University

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Contents

- Creative Works assessment criteria..... 3**
 - Introduction 3
 - General eligibility criteria..... 3
 - Creative Works Assessment Panel..... 3
 - Ineligible outlets 4
 - Peer review evidence 4
- Research Productivity Index 5**
 - Eligibility 5
 - Research statement..... 5
 - Weightings overview 6
 - Scope of work 7
 - Outlet and reach..... 8
 - Examples 9
- Subtypes eligibility 10**
 - Original 10
 - Live Performance 12
 - Recorded/Rendered..... 13
 - Curation..... 15

Creative Works assessment criteria

Introduction

Creative works are assessed bi-annually. Assessment outcomes contribute to internal performance assessments such as the Research Outputs Collection (ROC) and Research Productivity Index (RPI), as well as external research evaluation exercises. This is an acknowledgement that research, and contribution to new knowledge, can manifest in other ways and forms in the creative arts. A variety of types of creative works are eligible.

These guidelines provide information to assist in understanding how creative works are assessed at Charles Sturt University, including the allocation of points for the RPI, and detailed information relating to definitions and research contributions for the various subtypes of creative works. If you require assistance or additional information please contact the Data Quality Team at researchoutputs@csu.edu.au.

General eligibility criteria

Research output may consist of any form of publicly available, assessable materials embodying research, whether produced by writing, making, composing, designing, performing, or curating.

Creative works may include anything from highly experimental works of creative art – music or visual art, for example, creative writing, dance or design.

Creative Works must clearly demonstrate the ARC definition of research.

Creative Works Assessment Panel

The purpose of the Creative Works Assessment Panel is to provide guidance to the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research and Engagement as to which creative works should be included for assessment, and their relative worth, for inclusion into the Research Outputs Collection (ROC) and Research Productivity Index (RPI), based upon the eligibility information contained within these guidelines.

The Creative Works Assessment Panel consists of the following members:

CHAIR

Associate Dean (Research), Faculty of Arts and Education

PANEL

- Head of School (Social Work and Arts)
- At least three academics with expertise in creative works nominated by the Chair, and at least:
 - one with expertise in textual;
 - one with expertise in visual; and
 - one external
- Director (Research Services) as a support role to the Panel
- Data Quality Officer
- Other members with appropriate expertise may be co-opted as required

Ineligible outlets

The following forms of dissemination are not considered as meeting the requirements for an eligible creative work outlet:

- Self-published works, for example, publication of a selection of an artist's or designer's work on their internet homepage, or through publishers which require payment for publication of the work, or where the output has only been made available via free hosting services such as YouTube;
- Exhibition in studio, domestic settings, private spaces, or by artist-run initiatives, unless the research statement provides a strong argument for the impact and significance of the works and rationale for the location used; and
- Web versions of conventional exhibitions, and web-based exhibitions with no curatorial component.

Peer review evidence

Creators of creative works are required to provide evidence of peer review, commissioning or competitive selection of their work. This may take the form of:

- a statement explaining the selection process, including the names of the selection panel
- an authorised copy of the written submission that accompanied the commission bid, if one was required; and/or a copy of the criteria set by the commissioning agent or organisation
- an authorised copy of the official comments provided by the commissioning agent/panel to the successful recipient
- evidence of peer review in the form of a published commentary and/or detailed statements by qualified experts who had access to the output.

Peer review may also be evidenced by the following, and this may also provide support for allocation of a relevant level weighting where there is a new outlet or the outlet has not yet established a reputation:

- Independent substantial representations, critical or scholarly essays, articles, conference papers, or reviews of the creative work written by experts/peers in the field and published (in print or online) in either:
 - academic journals or professional publications
 - by commercial publishers;
 - by commercial or not-for-profit bodies.
- Involvement of highly distinguished personnel in a leading role (as actor, performer, director, artist, designer, architect, etc);
- Invitation to perform/exhibit at heritage or historical sites, provided that the event is well documented and evidence is shown of editorial endorsement by a professional curator or festival director;
- the commissioning or funding of the work / exhibition / performance by a competitive and / or peer-review process; or
- awards, prizes, honours, short-listings, etc., judged by a panel of peers.

For creative works published online, evidence of significant visitation or sharing via social media may also justify an increased weighting for outlet and reach if website analytics from the publisher can be provided.

Research Productivity Index (RPI)

Eligibility

For creative works to generate index points they must meet the ARC definition of research through attaining each of the following elements:

1. The work must meet the eligibility criteria.
2. Be recorded in CRO in an eligible creative works category, including:
 - a. an original creative work;
 - b. a live performance of a creative work or creative works;
 - c. recorded/rendered creative works;
 - d. curated or produced substantial public exhibitions and events; or
 - e. portfolio of creative output.
3. Be publicly available through, for example, exhibition, performance or publication;
4. Have demonstrable reach – the work must have an audience or readership;
5. Be submitted with a Creative Works Research Statement;
6. Include evidence of peer review – all creative works must have been commissioned, competitively selected, or be able to otherwise provide evidence of external peer review;
7. The claimant must be the author/creator/curator of the research.

Ineligible types

The following are examples of types of outputs generally not considered creative works:

- Podcasts when the content is not creative (that is, interview format). Radio plays and other forms of creative productions may be eligible if determined by the Creative Works Assessment Panel.
- Recorded versions of speeches, presentations, conference abstracts that are simply recorded versions (that is, not creative content).
- Websites that do not have a curatorial component.
- Resources developed for educational purposes.

Alternative versions and portfolios

Points for outputs can only be claimed once unless new research components have been introduced to the work. This includes creative works published as academic journal articles, unless new research components have been introduced to the work which will need to be explained in a Creative Works Research Statement (see next section). Additional points cannot be claimed for repeat performances across time or across locations, apart from points awarded under reach, which will need to be explained in the Creative Works Research Statement.

Some projects may generate several outputs with a common research question, i.e. a group art exhibition in which the curator's own work is included. Creative works that are part of the same research project may be assessed as a portfolio. At the discretion of the creative works assessment panel, outputs may be considered individually if their research statement sufficiently outlines the unique contribution the creative work makes to the larger research program and field of research in which it is located.

Research statement

The research statement is a critical document for an output's research contribution to be explained and understood by internal and external reviewers. Each subcategory of Creative Works has its own research statement template. When a Creative Work research output is added to CRO, a Data Quality Team member will email the submitting staff member with a research statement to complete. Alternatively, a research statement can be obtained by emailing researchoutputs@csu.edu.au.

Weightings overview

Creative works are allocated index points which are used to calculate an RPI score. Index points are awarded for both scope **and** outlet/reach (for example, a quality creative work with a major scope and major outlet/reach would be allocated 100 points, which is in alignment with points allocated for quality books). See below table for detailed information regarding point values for these measures:

Scope	
Major	70 points
Substantial	15 points
Minor	3 points
Outlet and reach	
Major	30 points
Substantial	11 points
Minor	2 points

Recommendations to the Pro-Vice Chancellor Research (Performance and Governance) regarding the final determination of index points allocated to a creative work will be made by the Creative Works Assessment Panel.

The following information is a guide for allocating index points to creative works. Index points are allocated for each section and then totalled.

Scope of work

Creative works are categorised as either major, substantial or minor as outlined below.

Major creative work (70 points)

Characteristics of a major creative work include:

- Major output.
- Accredited or acknowledged sole, lead or major role in the production of a major output or body of work
- The published output exhibits more than one of the following attributes:
 - a high degree of complexity and or sophistication in structure, scope or scale;
 - novel or highly innovative concepts, methodologies, approaches, repertoire, interrelationships;
 - a high degree of cultural significance;
 - a high degree of influence on peers in the field

Includes works such as individual exhibitions, a feature film/ documentary, a musical or theatrical production, individual performances, architecture and design, novels, books of poetry, anthologies and web-based exhibitions. May also include major creative works developed through multidisciplinary collaboration which combine skill and research.

Substantial creative work (15 points)

A substantial creative work will have the following characteristics:

- A substantial work would be very similar to a major work but typically the extent, duration and scope of the work is likely to be smaller.
- Accredited or acknowledged sole, lead or significant role in the production of a substantial output or body of work;
- The publicly available output exhibits at least one of the following attributes:
 - a moderate degree of complexity and /or sophistication in structure or scale;
 - the synthesis or extension of existing concepts, methodologies, approaches, repertoire and/or artistic or intellectual inter-relationships;
 - a moderate degree of cultural significance;
 - a moderate degree of influence on peers in the field.

Examples may include a novella, a musical or theatrical production of shorter duration, or an exhibition at a major venue, individual performances, web-based exhibitions or events / festivals. May also include substantial creative works developed through multidisciplinary collaboration which combine skill and research, such as digital creative works.

Minor creative work (3 points)

A minor work is normally a research output of lesser scope that still makes a contribution to the field. Includes works such as individual artworks, photo essays, photo books, artist books, creative prose work, catalogue essays, short stories, poems, a segment of a musical or theatrical production, or participation in an exhibition or performance. May also include minor creative works developed through multidisciplinary collaboration which combine skill and research, such as group performances and group exhibitions.

Outlet and reach

Creative works attract index points depending on the level of peer review they were subject to, as determined by the venue, publisher or outlet they were produced for.

Major (30 points)

These have one or more of the following characteristics:

Works that have been commissioned, or funded by a distinguished public or private body or selected through a competitive process and made publicly available through exhibition, quality publishers or outlets of national or international standing, including:

- Events, exhibitions, concerts, productions, competitions, or festivals;
- Academic, commercial or not-for-profit institutions;
- Commercial presses, galleries, museums, theatres, broadcasters, film distributors, record labels, or public spaces; or
- Acquisition by a public or private collection that is subject to national or international peer review.
- Recognition of work by inclusion in a school or university curriculum.
- Invitation to repeat exhibitions/performances.
- Anthologisation.

Substantial (11 points)

Works that have been commissioned or selected through a competitive process and made publicly available through:

- Regional-level events, exhibitions, concerts, productions, competitions, or festivals;
- Academic, commercial or not-for-profit institutions; or commercial presses, galleries, museums, broadcasters, film studios, record labels, or public spaces;
- Charles Sturt University venues of substantial standing such as the CSU Playhouse, HR Gallop Gallery, 2MCE Radio; or
- Online publications, excluding websites described under Ineligible outlets.

Typically will not be subject to repeat or only subject to limited repeat exhibitions/performances.

Minor (2 points)

Works that have been commissioned or selected/reviewed and made publicly available through minor publishers or outlets of local standing, including:

- Local events, exhibitions, concerts, productions, competitions, or festivals;
- Local councils and the public spaces that they manage;
- Minor publishers, broadcasters, film studios, record labels; or
- Work presented at Charles Sturt University outlets or equivalent, such as libraries, conference centres, hallways, etc, if there is evidence of peer review and selection processes and it is part of an event that includes outside participation or the output is publicly distributed.

Examples

A researcher has produced 10 complex ceramic works. The ceramic works demonstrated a high degree of cultural significance and were exhibited at a regional gallery for seven weeks. The researcher was the sole creator of all 10 ceramic works.

Scope of work: major	70 points
Outlet/reach: substantial	11 points
TOTAL POINTS	81 points

A researcher is listed as the second author for a novella which was commissioned by a regional publisher.

Scope of work: substantial	15 points
Outlet/reach: substantial	11 points
TOTAL POINTS	26 points

Subtypes eligibility

Original

Visual	
Definition	Exhibited visual artwork expressing ideas that lead to new knowledge and/ or advance the development and understanding of the creative arts.
Advancement/ Extension of knowledge	The creation of new and original works of visual art which offers a new contribution to broader cultural debates and/or develops or extends art historical/theoretical debates surrounding specific genres of creative production. The work should exhibit originality in at least one of the following ways: • the inclusion of ideas and forms new to a particular genre or to the visual arts generally • the incorporation of new technological research and/or new material/production methods • the use of new and/or unusual combinations of media in cross-disciplinary creations involving hybrid art forms and/or usually unrelated creative practices, e.g.: – art/science/scholarship – creative/critical work – performance/public art – sound/visual – installations/sculptor – collaborative projects involving sound/film/mixed media.
Design/Architecture	
Definition	Architecture and design (built or unbuilt) which increases knowledge in the context of architecture, design, and creative arts research. The output should be some form of design documentation, and there should be supporting evidence to show the design has entered the public domain.
Advancement/ Extension of knowledge	The creation of new and original work, realised or unrealized, which uses new techniques of conceptualisation, design, fabrication, or compositional processes, and/or demonstrates new relationships to programs of social utility. Architecture and design that exhibits originality in at least one of the following ways: • by challenging disciplinary conventions • by yielding new and highly innovative approaches or techniques • by addressing existing issues in new ways by creating unusual combinations of media.
Textual	
Definition	Published creative textual work that embodies research and increases knowledge and/or advances the development and understanding of literary and/or other written forms.
Advancement/ Extension of knowledge	The creation of new and original creative written works or the generation of novel insights about existing texts.

The work should exhibit originality, extending the boundaries of existing ideas, methodologies, approaches, scholarly or creative techniques.

The work's originality may be in its innovative literary techniques, or in its utilisation of usually unrelated forms, genres and/ or subject matter.

Other

Definition Original creative works that do not fit the other research output types but increase knowledge and/or advance understanding in fields across the research spectrum, primarily in the creative arts, design, and the humanities.

**Advancement/
Extension of
knowledge** The creation/performance/publication of new and original creative works that may contribute, develop or extend historical, theoretical, cultural or design debates.

The work should exhibit originality, extending the boundaries of existing ideas, methodologies, approaches, and/or scholarly or creative techniques.

The work's originality may be in its innovative techniques, or in its utilisation of usually unrelated forms, genres and/or subject matter.

Live Performance

Music/Play/Dance	
Definition	Musical, dance or theatrical performance embodying research which increases knowledge and/or advances understanding in the context of the arts and humanities.
Advancement/ Extension of knowledge	The live performance of new and original works that may include a performance of new repertoire, such as a world première, or a repertoire that has been newly discovered, edited, or interpreted by the creator, or a repertoire that incorporates improvisation drawing on extensive research. The live performance should exhibit originality, extending the boundaries of existing ideas, methodologies, approaches, creative or improvisational techniques. This may include repertoire performed according to new ideas of performance practice.

Recorded/Rendered

Film/Video	
Definition	A new and original output embodying research created specifically for presentation in an audio-visual format, which increases knowledge and/or advances understanding in the context of the creative arts or other scholarly disciplines.
Advancement/ Extension of knowledge	New and original audio-visual work may include traditional scholarship presented in a documentary format, production of new material specifically for an audio-visual medium, the development or use of new applications, techniques, methodologies or approaches, or work developed through collaboration across disciplinary fields. The work could exhibit originality in at least one of the following ways: • by developing new applications, production processes or modes of presentation • by using hybrid forms, involving usually unrelated creative practices or new combinations of disciplinary genres.
Performance	
Definition	Performance embodying research and created or developed specifically for a recorded medium to increase knowledge and/or advance understanding in the arts and humanities. (Simple documentation of live performance of creative work is not eligible.)
Advancement/ Extension of knowledge	The new and original recording or rendering of performance may include a recorded performance of new repertoire, such as a world première recording, or of repertoire that has been newly discovered, edited, or interpreted by the performer. It may also incorporate improvisation specifically for the recording or rendering. The recorded or rendered performance should exhibit originality, extending the boundaries of existing ideas, methodologies, approaches, techniques, recording practices, or modes of production. The work's originality may be in the recording or rendering of a performance involving usually unrelated forms, genres, and/ or subject matter.
Digital creative work	
Definition	Original work created specifically for a digital medium, which embodies research and increases knowledge and/or advances understanding across the research spectrum, primarily in design and the creative arts. The output should be disseminated publicly. Supporting documentation is required to demonstrate that the digital creative work has entered the public domain. Multi-dimensional models, digital outputs of architectural and design projects, interactive computer applications, games, and visual artworks should be submitted under this category.
Advancement/ Extension of knowledge	New and original digital creative work may include: • the development or use of new applications, techniques, methodologies, or approaches • collaboration across disciplinary fields • new dynamic visualisation techniques and other forms of modelling • the extension of modelling approaches to additional dimensions • the use of new applications of existing material, forms, software, or ideas. The work should exhibit originality, which may be in the development of hybrid forms through new combinations of creative practices or media, new applications or modes

of interactivity or by applying visualisation and other forms of dynamic modelling in new fields.

Website/Web-based exhibition

Definition Original or newly rendered work embodying research created specifically for dissemination through a website, which increases knowledge and/or advances understanding in fields across the research spectrum. The research is concerned with creating or rendering content, rather than with selecting content produced by others.

**Advancement/
Extension of
knowledge** New web content may include the incorporation of new presentation techniques, methodologies, or approaches in web media; collaboration across disciplinary fields or the reorganisation of existing knowledge through new modes of association and presentation.

Experimental and/or interactive web content extends the boundaries of existing ideas, methodologies, approaches, applications, or practices. The work should exhibit originality, which may be in one of the following ways:

- new combinations of creative practices or media enabling reconceptualization
- through new intellectual, artistic, or design inter-relationships
- the dynamic rendition of usually static material
- new modes of interactivity for users.

Curation

Web-based exhibition

Definition The curation of a collection of material which embodies research, for dissemination through a website, where the curation embodies research and increases knowledge and/or advances understanding in fields across the research spectrum, primarily in the creative arts, design, and the humanities. The published site should include some form of introductory and/or curatorial statement.

Permanent digital repositories, interactive searchable databases, and digital archives should be submitted under this category.

**Advancement/
Extension of
knowledge** Original curation or edition of digital material may include:

- the inclusion of newly digitised materials that significantly extends their availability and enhances their interpretation
- the incorporation of new techniques, methodologies, or approaches in web media
- collaboration across disciplinary fields
- the synthesis of existing knowledge and novel juxtaposition of ideas and images to offer new interpretations.

The website should exhibit originality, which may be in one of the following ways:

- the exploitation of digital media to explore material in ways not possible in traditional exhibition or publication
- new combinations of usually unrelated materials
- dynamic rendition of usually static material
- new modes of creative visualisation, interactivity, or searchability for users.

Exhibition/Event/Festival

Definition The curation of a collection of works/performances drawn together in that particular arrangement for the first time in a reputable festival, gallery, museum, or event, where the curation embodies research and increases knowledge and/or advances understanding in fields across the research spectrum, primarily in the creative arts, design, and the humanities. This should be accompanied by a well-researched publication that includes some form of curatorial statement, as well as the date and location of the exhibition/festival.

**Advancement/
Extension of
knowledge** Original curation of creative works or the generation of novel insights about existing works may include:

- creative works presented together for the first time
- the incorporation or extension of new curatorial techniques, methodologies, or approaches
- synthesis of existing knowledge and novel juxtaposition of works to offer new interpretations
- collaboration across disciplinary fields.

The exhibition/event/festival's originality may be in its utilisation of usually unrelated forms, genres, and/or subject matter.