

ERA – Submission on Draft Journal Ranking List

The Australian Screen Production Education & Research Association (ASPERA) is the peak body for the screen production discipline in Australian higher education and as such would like to make a submission in relation to the journal ranking list released by the ARC for use in the ERA initiative. ASPERA researchers primarily position their work within FoR 1902 (Film, Television and Digital Media), in Discipline Cluster 2 (Humanities and Creative Arts).

ASPERA believes the current list of journals in FoR 1902 omits a number of key titles that are widely regarded by researchers in the field as publishing work of the highest quality. Furthermore, we believe many of the journals that are included are ranked too low, not reflecting their quality as judged by a number of experienced researchers in the field. The very low percentage of journals in FoR 1902 ranked above tier B significantly disadvantages researchers in film, television and digital media in relation to other disciplines and the basis on which these judgments have been made is not clear.



ASPERA, representing screen production researchers, in consultation with other senior academics who position their work within FOR 1902, would like to submit the following list, which we maintain more accurately reflects the knowledge within the field about the quality and relevance of the journals listed. Given the significant discrepancies between the original list and the judgments of active researchers in the field, ASPERA believes the ranking process would benefit from further consultation and is happy to participate in this.

Whilst acknowledging that this consultation round is focused on the ranking of journals, ASPERA would like to emphasise our view that when measuring research quality within screen production, publishing in journals is only one of a number of significant indicators. Other forms of publication, such as peer-reviewed exhibitions (e.g. film festivals, theatrical release, broadcast and online screenings) are regarded as strong indicators of quality and in some cases as considerably more significant.

We also wish to take this opportunity to point out that ASPERA is involved in national and international initiatives in relation to peer review and the measuring of research excellence within our sector. Given the disciplinary diversity of Cluster Group 2, we would like to convey our desire to work closely with the ERA and the Indicator Development Group, to develop

effective disciplinary-specific indicators of research quality for screen production.

ASPERA looks forward to working with the ERA on the further development of the initiative.

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