



UCT Libraries Bibliometrics Working Group

Library support for NRF rating application

This document outlines the support available from UCT Libraries to assist with NRF rating applications.

The role of the library is to provide support in the researcher's application for an NRF rating which includes providing bibliometric and other relevant assistance. The Libraries will provide guidance in terms of what is the most appropriate metric to use in support of the **Application** section and will also provide assistance in identifying, if applicable, contribution to niche research areas. In preparation of yourself, the researcher, for engagement with the librarian, here is an outline of the library support that we can provide to add value to your application.

In the rating application, there are two sections: the **CV**; and the **Application**. The following is set out to follow these sections. For ease of reading and understanding, at the first mention these platforms have been listed in a glossary at the end of this document.

1. CV

In this section, the librarians can **assist and guide** the researcher in:

- Creating an [ORCID](#) account if the researcher has not done so already;
- Creating a [Web of Science](#) profile if the researcher does not have an account;
- Creating a [Google Scholar](#) account:
 - Claim publications and clean up duplication.

Setting up researcher IDs and profiles on platforms such as the above will help with better management of research outputs and the collection of metrics thereof. ORCID allows for integration from various sources to help manage a CV of publications in a more automated way. ORCID further integrates with [UCT's eRA system](#) which makes managing your publications on your UCT research profile easier.

To populate the ORCID iD record, further assistance can be provided to connect other IDs as well as import publications from various sources, such as:

- Web of Science [ResearcherID](#);
- Scopus [Author ID](#);
- Connecting and conducting searches for publications on [CrossRef](#);
- Connecting with [DataCite](#) and [ZivaHub](#); and,
- Exporting publications from Google Scholar (to do this, the researcher will have to create an account, claim publications and clean up duplications).

To facilitate a comprehensive and seamless extraction of bibliometric data, it is critical to have the appropriate author profiles set up and up to date.

The researcher is requested to provide the librarians with a comprehensive up to date CV of publications.

2. Application

In this section more space is given for the researcher to supply a narrative, with an option of attaching additional documentation.

The section on **Research outputs** can be informed by the researcher's ORCID profile. Under **Additional details**, the **Google Scholar h-index** information can be taken from the Google Scholar profile.

The narratives can be supported as follows:

- For the section on **Best five research outputs in the last 8 years**:
 - The librarian can provide research impact report of publications that the researcher provides – this could be innovative outputs or novel knowledge produced in niche or highly specialised research areas; or,
 - The librarian can prepare a metrics report of the best five publications based on the metrics available on [SciVal](#), [Scopus](#), [Web of Science](#) and other relevant platforms that collect bibliometric data. Additionally, the librarian can also look at comparable metrics like field-weighted citations (Scopus) or field citation ratio ([Dimensions](#)).
 - SciVal offers in-depth analysis of researchers' research output. SciVal draws its data from Scopus, another platform, that offers metrics of both journal articles and journal titles. Web of Science is the developer of the Journal Impact Factor, a journal metric that is frequently used as an indicator of the importance of a journal to its field. Scopus and Web of Science are used in conjunction because the two databases have different subject coverage and indexing criteria for inclusion. Dimensions and Scopus offer comparable metrics, that is, metrics that allow for comparison across disciplines irrespective of citation behaviour. Different disciplines sometimes require additional metrics from different platforms to where the aforementioned does not adequately index to provide a true reflection of citation impact. These can be discipline specific databases that collect citation data.
 - If required, the librarian can provide PDF files of the best five publications.
- For the **Brief description of completed research and self-assessment of research output**:
 - A basic bibliometrics report of the last 8 years can be generated to inform the description
 - A basic report will include data from Scopus, Web of Science and Google Scholar

Scopus and Web of Science provide citation data from trusted sources. However, Google Scholar indexes diverse document types giving it the advantage of providing a broader sense of citation impact than either of the platforms.
 - The librarian can provide more detail for notable works as informed by the researcher; perhaps multiple publications emanating from one research project (including supervision of masters or PhD projects from said research project).

3. Narrative

One of the value-added services that the Libraries offer is assistance in creating narratives informed by both the quantitative bibliometric data collected as well as information supplied by the researcher. This can feed into the narratives required in the **Application** section of the NRF rating application, or an additional narrative can be created to append the whole application.

In preparation of this, the Libraries ask that you consider the following questions to assist this process:

- i. **Are you able to frame the impact of your research?** An example of this would be to discuss how your research positively contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their targets or another societal development framework. You may use the SDG Impact Assessment Tool (<https://sdgimpactassessmenttool.org/en-gb>) to assess your contribution. Additionally, you can think about the impact your research has had on national policy development, legislation, standards, etcetera.
- ii. **Has your research resulted in new research areas?** Here we can concentrate on niche and highly specialised research areas that have emerged from your work or a multi-/inter-/trans-/cross-disciplinary nature of your research. What have you contributed to the advancement of your discipline/field?
- iii. **Have you had unique or special collaborations?** Using SciVal (if the data is available), we can produce analytics on local, national and international collaboration, but if you have had any kind of unique collaboration – that is, a collaboration with a non-academic institution, or international collaborations where you were the lead author or provided the most contributions – we would like to place some focus on this.
- iv. **Is there anything of significance about your research or your research career that is not necessarily evident in traditional metrics?** Think about instances where your research has featured in popular news sources or has sparked conversation on social media.

In order to get the maximum benefit of this service offering, we advise that you allow the UCT Libraries at least 2 weeks to assist you in your application. You are encouraged to submit the [2025 Online NRF Rating Request form](#) before 12pm 15 December 2025. You may follow up with the Principal Librarian responsible for supporting your faculty.

Faculty	Principal Librarian	Email
CHED	Glynnis Johnson	glynnis.johnson@uct.ac.za
Commerce	Glynnis Johnson	glynnis.johnson@uct.ac.za
Engineering & the Built Environment	Amina Adam	amina.adam@uct.ac.za
Health Sciences	Brandon Adams	brandon.adams@uct.ac.za
Humanities	Namhla Madini	namhla.madini@uct.ac.za
Law	Sadiq Keraan	sadiq.keraan@uct.ac.za
Science	Amina Adam	amina.adam@uct.ac.za

Checklist for the Researcher

CV

ORCID account has been created

Web of Science Profile has been created

Publications have been added to Web of Science Profile

Web of Science Profile is connected with ORCID

Web of Science has been granted permission to update your Works on ORCID

Web of Science has been granted permission to update your record (ResearcherID) on ORCID

Scopus Author ID has been connected with ORCID

More ORCID works has been populated using the “Search & link” tool within ORCID

Google Scholar profile has been created

Publications have been claimed and cleaned up in Google Scholar

Google Scholar profile has been made visible to public

Missing publications in ORCID have been imported from Google Scholar

Provided the librarian with comprehensive and up to date CV

Application

Provided the librarian with a list of best five publications

OR

Contacted the librarian to ask for five best publications according to available metrics

Provided the librarian with notable work for inclusion in an extended report and/or narrative

Glossary of platforms and profiles	Description
Author ID	Author identifier provided by Scopus author profile.
CrossRef	The organisation that assigns Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) to publications
DataCite	The organisation that assigns Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) to research data
Dimensions	A platform collates publications and is linked to six datasets: publications, grants, clinical trials, policy documents, data and patents
Google Scholar	A search engine that indexes scholarly literature across an array of disciplines
ORCID	ORCID provides a persistent digital identifier (an ORCID iD) that the researcher owns and controls. It enables transparent and trustworthy connections between researchers, their contributions, and their affiliations using the unique, persistent identifier for individuals to use as they engage in research, scholarship, and innovation activities.
Researcher ID	Author identifier provided by Web of Science profile
SciVal	Research analytical platform that uses Scopus data from 1996
Scopus	Abstract and citation indexing database
Web of Science	Abstract and citation indexing database
UCT's eRA system	UCT's electronic Research Administration system (eRA)
ZivaHub	UCT's institutional data repository