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# LIBRARY

## WRITING TRACK RECORD STATEMENTS

Ria Hamblett Research Engagement Coordinator, Outreach

- Building a track record
- Metrics and other sources of information/evidence
  - understanding the source data, how to think strategically about metrics
- Research impact
  - including ARC definitions and output/outcomes/impact pathways.
- Bringing it all together, writing a compelling narrative

# 1. TRACK RECORD

## Your track record

- Think of it as:
  - ✓ a tool for future promotion.
  - ✓ a 'living' CV.
  - ✓ an academic log.
- Capture your data as you go:
  - ✓ Collate statistical and narrative information on your research activities and outputs.
  - ✓ Much easier to update this periodically, rather than retrospectively.

Good record keeping =  
a **LOVE LETTER** to  
your future self!

### What do you want your future track record to look like?

“It is better to aim for the moon and get halfway there than just to aim for the roof and get halfway upstairs”

**Diana Wynne Jones**

## Building a track record

<b>Research plan</b>	Make a plan, include dissemination: think about strategic publishing; Consider non-academic avenues too: podcasts, media, The Conversation.
<b>Public profile</b>	Make yourself discoverable, build up a recognisable profile: Google Scholar, ORCID, LinkedIn, Twitter etc.
<b>Make connections</b>	To raise your profile and build potential collaboration opportunities. Network with relevant industry groups and government departments.
<b>Team up</b>	Get to know your fellow researchers. Look to senior colleagues and mentors to help you find active research teams.
<b>Start small</b>	Apply to smaller, less competitive funding schemes and build up from there.
<b>Sell your story</b>	Identify potential directions and distinguish yourself from others. Don't undersell yourself just because your track record is still in the development phase. Give context around your current career stage.

Adapted from: <https://researchwhisperer.org/2018/02/06/building-track-record/>

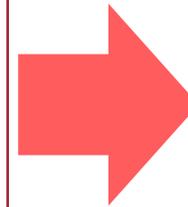
**Write, publish, apply for prizes, attend conferences, hone your skills, build capability.**

# What contributes to your track record?

## Strategic publishing

Developing a publishing strategy early on will:

- Save you time by focusing on key decisions and tasks.
- Help align your research with the most appropriate publication source.
- Optimise the best outcomes for each paper.



## Metrics and measures

- Publication citations.
- Journal Impact Factors and rankings.
- Books/book chapters.
- Social media reach.
- Peer comparisons and benchmarking.

## Research activities

- Work experience/employment
- Career interruptions
- Research training and mentoring
- Research support income
- Industry experience
- Prizes, honours, awards
- Reports for industry
- Commercial outcomes/patents
- Invited keynote addresses
- Book/journal editor
- Board member
- Conference organiser
- Reviewer
- Public commentary
- Public appearances

# 2. METRICS and other data sources

# Bibliometrics

Metrics are measured in three main ways...

	Assessing the:	Such as:	Commonly used metrics:
	<b>publication source</b>	journal or book	Quartile and rank (both SJR & JCR), SNIP, Journal Impact Factor, CiteScore
	<b>research</b>	article, chapter or document	Citation count, FWCI, outputs in top percentiles
	<b>researcher</b>	you!	H-index, scholarly output

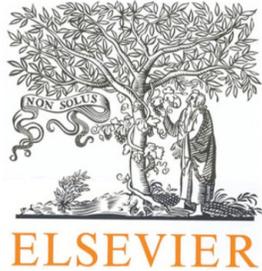
Make sure that the metric you are using is related to the entity you want to assess!

# Metrics analytic tools

**Owned by:**

**Analysis tool:**

**Analyses data from:**



SciVal

Scopus



InCites

Web of Science

## Altmetrics: alternative metrics

### Discover the attention around your research

- Altmetrics are metrics and qualitative data that are complementary to traditional, citation-based metrics.
- Altmetrics data can explain both the **volume** and the **nature** of attention that research receives online.

### Track metrics from:

- Social media, such as Twitter and Facebook.
- Mainstream media and blogs.
- Policy documents and patents.
- Online reference manager and publisher download counts.

### Examine your reach and engagement



**HOT TIP!**

Always use a permanent identifier such as DOI / ISBN when posting about your research online

## Other sources of information / types of attention



- Track and showcase your peer review and editorial contributions.
- Available on the Research Portal, compiled by Research Data & Systems

- **Book metrics** Reputable scholarly publisher; book sales; number and types of languages the book has been translated into; best seller lists; widely read in the field; number of copies in libraries nationally and internationally.
- **Book reviews** Google and Google Scholar searches for the book title can reveal published book reviews.
- **Student reading lists** Is your book/chapter used for university courses (and how widely it is used).
- **Research data** Publishing your research dataset is another way to draw attention to your research, and could possibly lead to new insights or collaborations, especially if you licence it for re-use.
- **Wikipedia** Including citations in Wikipedia articles could lead to increased academic citations, although no guarantees!

## Getting noticed

**Five key things** you can do to help your research get noticed:

1. Ensure your **Google Scholar** profile is up to date, and set to 'public'.
2. Ensure your **ORCID** record is up to date.
3. Upload your research reports to **Analysis and Policy Observatory** (the Library can do this on your behalf).
4. Ensure you always use a **permanent identifier** (eg: DOI) when sharing research outputs online.
5. Make your work **Open Access** in Research Direct.



# 3. RESEARCH IMPACT

## Research impact is...

- ✓ “The contribution that research makes to the economy, society, environment or culture, beyond the contribution to academic research.”  
**Australian Research Council (ARC)**
- ✓ The ‘good’ that researchers do in the world.  
**Prof. Mark Reed, Fast Track Impact**

**IMPACT = BENEFIT**

## Research Impact Pathway

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

This column could also be called **IMPACT**

## Planning for impact

- Think strategically and meaningfully.
- Plan for impact from the beginning:

**think about how to identify who in society stands to benefit from your work.**

- And then, how to work with those people.
- How will you capture impact? Aim to gather evidence throughout the course of the project that impact is happening and can be attributed, at least in part, to the project.

# What makes a good impact story?

## 3 key aspects:

## Ask yourself...

### SCALE

- Who were the **primary beneficiaries** of this research?
- How **many** beneficiaries are there?
- Is this impact **local, national** or **international**?
- Is the impact **short term** or **ongoing**?

### SIGNIFICANCE

- How was this benefit **realised** for this group/sector?
- How **deeply** is each impacted?
- Nature of the impact - did it benefit:  
**attitude, awareness, behaviour, capacity, opportunity, performance, policy, practice, process** or **understanding**?

### ATTRIBUTION

- **Causal links** from research to impact
- Which sources will **corroborate** the impact?
- Make **evidence-based arguments** to create a believable narrative.
- Think about **evidencing**, not measuring.

# 4. BRINGING IT ALL TOGETHER

## Your project

- Common issue for a lot of grant proposals: don't overdo the background – write about **your** project.
- Simple questions that are often not answered properly:
  - ✓ What is the research about?
  - ✓ Why is it significant?
  - ✓ Who will benefit ?
- The **why** is often left out. Demonstrate the **so what** factor.
- “If we fund this research, how will it benefit Australia / our industry members?” (National Interest Test)
- Design an **impact strategy** into proposal developments, **demonstrate how you will deliver.**

## Writing a compelling narrative

- **ROPE statements:** format is very specific – structure it **precisely** as requested, address every heading.
- Start with **sections** and **headings**. Make notes in each section and **expand into a narrative** later.
- Demonstrate **HOW** your research has led to significant change or advance of knowledge in your research field, and also beyond academia.
- Aim for a coherent narrative that proves you have **built a track record in this area** and that you have the **capacity** to move on in this space.
- Make it clear that **this project is the obvious progression** for your career. Prove that your previous work has ideally put you in the position to be **the perfect person/team** for this project.
- Important that you **find proof to support the claims you make** of your excellence: metrics, publications in the field etc.

## Style and tone

- Write **concisely**, for an audience that may not necessarily be an expert in your field.
- Your readers are human and may have assessed a huge number of grants that day.
- Humans respond emotionally “I like this application”. Tell them a story that they want to keep reading, keep it as **simple** as you can.
- The **Nordic Interior Design Rule** \* – use white space, formatting (**bold**, underline, subheadings, *italics* or even boxes ). Break it up into manageable chunks for easy reading and to highlight the important bits.

(\*coined by Assoc.Prof. Adam Micolich, UNSW)

## Career best research outputs

- Top 10 publications – these will be different for each application / project.
  - ✓ Need to align with certain claims elsewhere in the application
  - ✓ Need to align with the team (collaborators) and the project
  - ✓ Select the publications that reinforce the central message elsewhere in the application

Think holistically - rather than 'in isolation'

- Helpful to include the importance/esteem of specific journals, and specific indicators of recognition, but always put in **context**.

## Career best narrative suggestions

- This highly cited paper explores ...
- One of the first papers to connect *a* and *b*
- One of the first papers to use this methodology for this purpose
- One of the first studies in Australia to connect this to international studies in the area
- Written in collaboration with top researchers in this field
- It has been published in Asia, Europe, North America and Australia
- It has been translated into Greek and Chinese
- Described by xxx as “challenging, timely and essential reading”
- It is consistently cited in leading journals in the field
- It is published in the journal most read by practitioners in this field
- It contributed to xxx legislation/Government report/practice change
- Recommended reading on university course lists
- Has been mentioned in xxx tweets on the subject
- Has been interviewed by national/international media on the subject
- Tweets about this paper have reached over a million people in 10 countries

## Successful WSU examples

- This book **introduces** the Mathematica style of programming to investigate problems in number theory. It has been **adopted** in Mainz, Bremen, Warsaw and Ankara for computational courses.
- With Greek and Spanish translations underway, this book is **reshaping** economic geography curriculums in Canada, NZ, UK and US.
- **First** paper to integrate a poststructuralist approach decentered identity with participatory action research methods.
- This work **pioneered** the use of molecular biology approaches for understanding genetic variation within species of ectomycorrhizal fungi and for identifying levels of **potential** cryptic speciation.
- Reviewed 20 times, ‘this book is **destined** to become a **seminal work** in the field’ (Brody 2010), cited 70 times in Google Scholar and translated into French and Greek.
- 143 citations including **field leaders** Grey, Hanley and Tippett.
- This work has been **widely lauded** as setting a new standard in model evaluation and intercomparison.
- This paper **significantly advances** our understanding of plant water use strategies.
- This work is the **first** to show a relationship between altered motor cortical organization and back pain severity.

## Successful WSU examples (extracts only)

- Google Scholar records that my work has received 335 citations since 2010 recognising the significant impact I have made to new research-based knowledge in the portfolio areas of....
- I am seen widely as an academic capable of extending my work outside the academy to heighten its impact. My portfolio of applied research reports concentrating on state policy and regional employment generation are examples of this wider impact. (examples given)
- Also important is my active media work, in particular my fortnightly columns for the Fairfax press concentrating on urban and regional development issues. I have written these without a break for over a decade.
- Awarded the best paper prize at the Australian Physiotherapy Conference 2014 and contributed to an ABC Radio National Broadcast 'Changing the Brain'.
- ...currently serve on the Board of Directors for the American Autonomic Society – the only Australian to have served in this board.
- For his work in graph algebras, he has also been awarded visiting Fellowship to the Max Planck Institute.
- MathSciNet, the American Mathematical Society's journal indexing tool, show that xxx's publications have been cited over 200 times by 50 authors.

## Quotes from ARC & grant assessors

**ARC:** The purpose of the ROPE criterion is to enable evaluation of a researcher's activities, outputs and achievements, in the context of career and life opportunities and experiences, including, where relevant, significant career interruptions.

**Assoc. Prof. Martina Sanderson-Smith** A well prepared ROPE statement... is important to give panel members and assessors everything they need to advocate for your grant application and give you the best scores possible. Be specific, be positive, and don't undersell yourself.

**Prof. Kerry London** I look for a compelling argument to conduct the research now. I also look for mentoring in proposals, clear aims and objectives, clear research questions, and a novel methodology that is clearly mapped to the aims, which is clearly mapped back to the phases of the methodology.

**Prof. Sharon Robinson** That first page is really important in framing the assessors' reading. Why is this research so important? Why is this team the best people to do the work? Why does it have to happen now and here? The significance of the research has to stand out and the proposal must be a clear fit with the appropriate scheme.

## Quotes from ARC & grant assessors

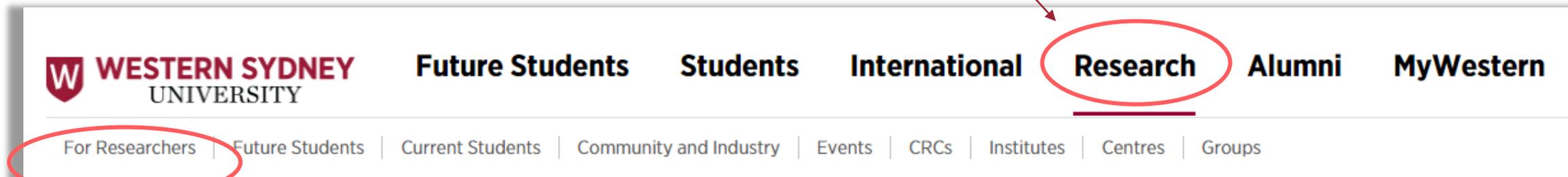
Verbosity of ROPE / track record statements:

- You have up to 5 pages but for most people 3 is more than enough.
- It's not a job or promotion application and shouldn't look like your CV. At its core this section needs to **convince assessors** that you have the **research experience & quality** to make the project feasible (i.e. you can be trusted to spend the funding well).
- 'Relative to opportunity' really matters and should be explained briefly, in a matter of fact way.
- **Contribution to knowledge** and the **influence on your field** is key.
- Main takeaway: don't make it hard on readers / assessors to figure out:
  - ✓ Who you are
  - ✓ How great your research is
- Keep it **simple** and **engaging!**

**Prof. Ariadne Vromen, ANU & Deputy Dean (Research) ANZSOG**

## Additional resources

On WSU homepage, click on 'Research', then 'For Researchers' drop down menu.



- > Research Portal
- > Funding Opportunities
- > **Preparing a Grant Application**
- > Research Publication Collection
- > Researcher Development
- > Research Integrity and Ethics
- > Managing your Research Project
- > Business Services

## Preparing a Grant Application

Contact the Research Development Officer who specialises in your research area as early as possible so they can assist you with strategic advice, critical feedback, budget development and track record statements to maximise your chance of success.

You can find additional resources such as past ARC and NHMRC successful grant applications (login required) and a list of FAQs in the [Grant Development Resource Library](#)

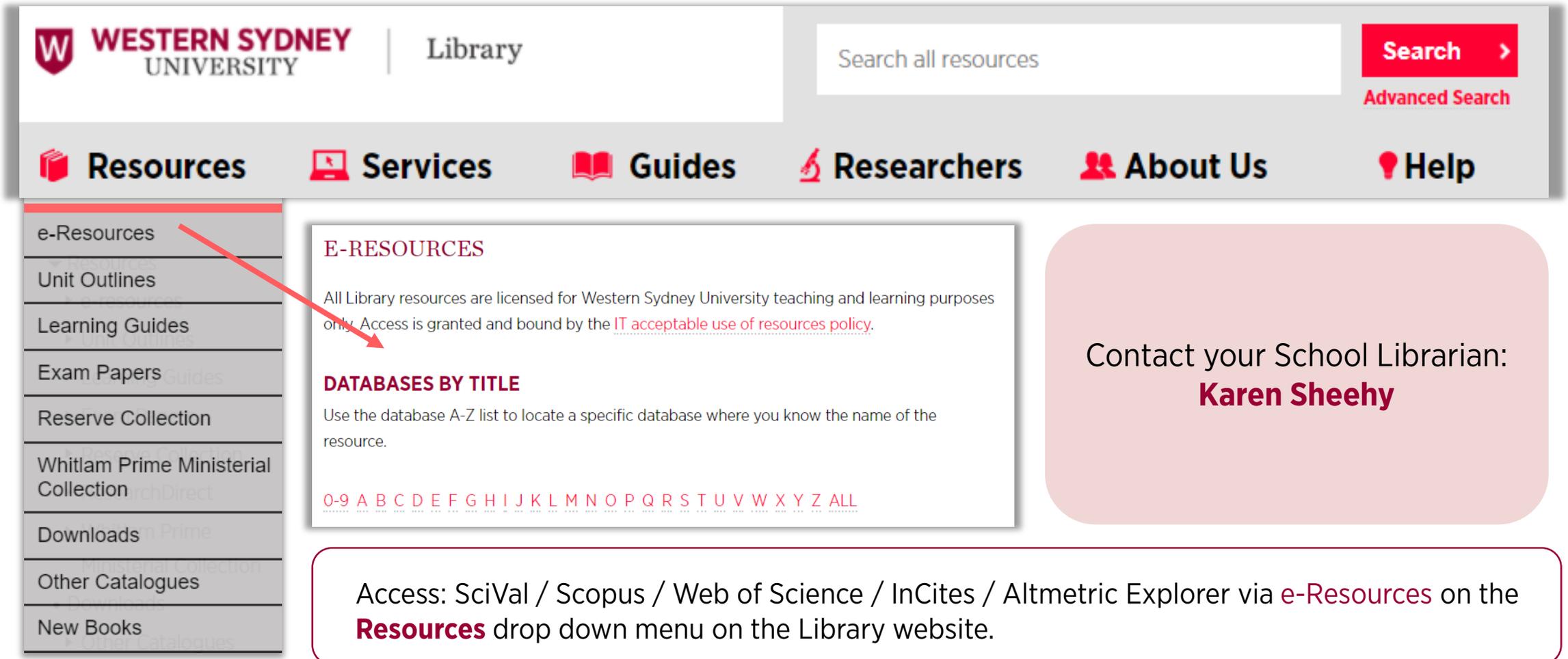


Scroll to bottom of the page for Exemplars:

## Exemplars

- ▶ [Grant Exemplars](#) (login required)

# Library website



The screenshot shows the Western Sydney University Library website. At the top left is the university logo and the word "Library". To the right is a search bar with the text "Search all resources" and a red "Search" button with a right arrow. Below the search bar is a link for "Advanced Search". A horizontal navigation bar contains icons and labels for "Resources", "Services", "Guides", "Researchers", "About Us", and "Help". A vertical drop-down menu is open under "Resources", listing items like "e-Resources", "Unit Outlines", "Learning Guides", "Exam Papers", "Reserve Collection", "Whitlam Prime Ministerial Collection", "Downloads", "Other Catalogues", and "New Books". A red arrow points from the "e-Resources" menu item to a white box containing the "E-RESOURCES" section. This section includes a license statement, a "DATABASES BY TITLE" heading, and an alphabetical index from 0-9 to Z. To the right of the white box is a pink rounded rectangle with the text "Contact your School Librarian: Karen Sheehy". At the bottom, a white rounded rectangle contains the text "Access: SciVal / Scopus / Web of Science / InCites / Altmetric Explorer via e-Resources on the Resources drop down menu on the Library website."

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Search all resources **Search** >  
Advanced Search

**Resources** Services Guides Researchers About Us Help

e-Resources  
Unit Outlines  
Learning Guides  
Exam Papers  
Reserve Collection  
Whitlam Prime Ministerial Collection  
Downloads  
Other Catalogues  
New Books

**E-RESOURCES**

All Library resources are licensed for Western Sydney University teaching and learning purposes only. Access is granted and bound by the [IT acceptable use of resources policy](#).

**DATABASES BY TITLE**

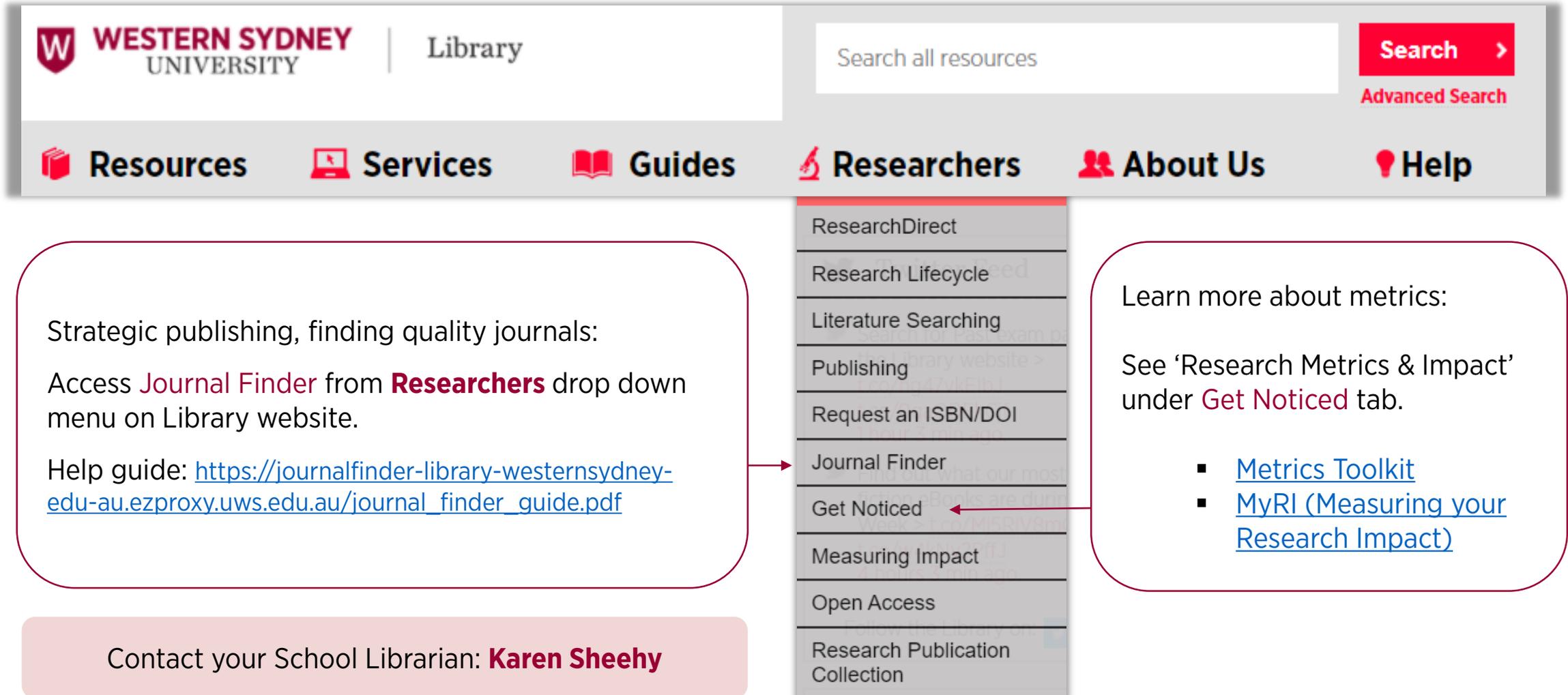
Use the database A-Z list to locate a specific database where you know the name of the resource.

0-9 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z ALL

Contact your School Librarian:  
**Karen Sheehy**

Access: SciVal / Scopus / Web of Science / InCites / Altmetric Explorer via **e-Resources** on the **Resources** drop down menu on the Library website.

# Library website



The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the Western Sydney University Library website. It includes the university logo, a search bar, and a menu with categories: Resources, Services, Guides, Researchers, About Us, and Help. The 'Researchers' menu is expanded, showing options like ResearchDirect, Research Lifecycle, Literature Searching, Publishing, Request an ISBN/DOI, Journal Finder, Get Noticed, Measuring Impact, Open Access, and Research Publication Collection. Two callout boxes provide additional information: one about 'Journal Finder' and another about 'Research Metrics & Impact'.

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Search all resources **Search** >  
Advanced Search

**Resources** **Services** **Guides** **Researchers** **About Us** **Help**

ResearchDirect  
Research Lifecycle  
Literature Searching  
Publishing  
Request an ISBN/DOI  
Journal Finder  
Get Noticed  
Measuring Impact  
Open Access  
Research Publication Collection

Strategic publishing, finding quality journals:  
Access **Journal Finder** from **Researchers** drop down menu on Library website.  
Help guide: [https://journalfinder-library-westernsydney-edu-au.ezproxy.uws.edu.au/journal\\_finder\\_guide.pdf](https://journalfinder-library-westernsydney-edu-au.ezproxy.uws.edu.au/journal_finder_guide.pdf)

Learn more about metrics:  
See 'Research Metrics & Impact' under **Get Noticed** tab.

- [Metrics Toolkit](#)
- [MyRI \(Measuring your Research Impact\)](#)

Contact your School Librarian: **Karen Sheehy**



# Q & A

## Contacts:

**Karen Sheehy:** School Librarian for MARCS / School of Science / HIE

✉ [k.sheehy@westernsydney.edu.au](mailto:k.sheehy@westernsydney.edu.au)

Library's **Research Engagement** Team:

✉ [lib-research@westernsydney.edu.au](mailto:lib-research@westernsydney.edu.au)

**Jodie Narayan:** Research Development Officer, Grants Services

✉ [j.Narayan@westernsydney.edu.au](mailto:j.Narayan@westernsydney.edu.au)



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