

ANZSRC Field of Research (FoR) Codes

In 2019, ACUADS made a submission to the ARC regarding the ANZSRC 2020 Field of Research (FoR) codes. In the submission, we recommended that changes be made to recognise current research practices and requested that any revisions would not further fragment the collection and measurement of creative research.

Under the new FoR codes:

- Creative Arts and Writing is now Division 36 (previously 19 Studies in Creative Arts and Writing).
- Built Environment and Design is now Division 33 (previously 12 Built Environment and Design)
- History, Heritage and Archaeology is now Division 43 (previously 21 History and Archaeology)
- Indigenous Studies is Division 45, a new Division, where 'previous FoR codes related to Indigenous research were at the field level only.'

The ACUADS submission requested specific Indigenous research codes, and Division 45 for Indigenous Studies is a welcome change to the previous dispersed Indigenous research. We note this Division includes 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander curatorial, archives and museums studies' (450105). However, this is the only mention of curatorial research under the new codes.

The number of FoR codes has almost doubled in 2020. This will have an impact on the dispersal of research outputs and the capacity to reach threshold submission volume. Institutions will need to be even more direct about where their outputs are landing and offer explicit guidance to researchers and research managers.

Positive outcomes

There are both positive and adverse outcomes from the review. ACUADS is pleased that no extension has been made to the number of 4-digit Units of Evaluation (UoE) within Creative Arts and Writing. It is also a positive outcome that Creative Writing has been decoupled from what was previously 1904 Performing Arts and Creative Writing. It is noted that there is improved nomenclature for 360604 Photography, video and lens-based practice (previously 190503 Lens-based practice).

There is also further clarification within 3303 Design, incorporating two suggestions proposed by the ACUADS submission:

- 330301 Data visualisation and computational (incl. parametric and generative) design
- The inclusion of 'criticism' in the naming of 330304 Design history, theory and **criticism**

ACUADS did not recommend integrating Design into what is now Division 36 Creative Arts and Writing, since this would have potentially fragmented the Design suite.

Other outcomes

Although curatorial studies are now classified under Group 4302 Heritage, archive and museum studies, this is not named at the 6-digit level, despite previously being named in Group 2102 Curatorial and Related Studies. Furthermore, its separation from creative research does not reflect the current practice of art curatorial research, which forms a significant part of art historical and theoretical research outputs. In the 2018 ERA round, there were 229.96 'curated or exhibited events' reported in 1905 Visual Arts and Crafts, and a total of 399.3 in Division 19 Studies in Creative Arts and Writing. To classify these under '...not elsewhere classified' suggests that these outputs are anomalies, which is not the case.

ACUADS believes that this does not reflect current practice and the place of curatorial studies within university degree programs for art history and art theory. The relegation to 43 appears not to recognise contemporary curatorial scholarship and may undervalue those outputs, if not an entire discipline. Other art history outputs also risk dispersal through new, named FoR codes.

Curatorial Practices could be listed in the following codes:

- 360101 Art Criticism and Curatorial Practices, which acknowledges the analytical and formative nature of audience thinking.
- 360104 Visual Cultures and Curatorial Practices, which suggests a broader consideration of curation which is particularly relevant in the current and potentially future digital realm for audiences. As the creative industries are in need of new forms of cultural production, we are witnessing increased engagement with this area among students and researchers.

We also note that while the Design codes are extensive, as in other codes, there is risk of dispersal of research.

Resource links

New ANZSRC codes (2020):

<https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/1297.02020?OpenDocument#Data>

Previous (2008) ANZSRC codes:

<https://www.abs.gov.au/Ausstats/abs@.nsf/Latestproducts/6BB427AB9696C225CA2574180004463E?opendocument>

State of Australian University Research 2018-19 - Research Outputs by Type:

<https://dataportal.arc.gov.au/ERA/NationalReport/2018/pages/section4/research-outputs-by-type/>