Research Outcomes and the AHRC

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Images sourced from the AHRC’s Image Gallery. Showcased here: (clockwise): Windows on War – *Russian studies and Drama*; British Library’s Royal Manuscripts – *Digital Humanities*; Earthworks - *Archaeology and Cultural Geography*; 3D Ceramics printing – *Design*; King’s Dome Commission – *Visual Arts*
Why does the AHRC collect information on research outcomes?

- Accountability and reporting requirements
- Champion arts and humanities research
- Increase funding for the arts and humanities research
The Research Councils consider impact to be the demonstrable contribution that excellent research makes to academic advances, across and within disciplines, including significant advances in understanding, methods, theory and application.

and

the demonstrable contribution that excellent research makes to society and the economy...Impact embraces all the extremely diverse ways in which research-related knowledge and skills benefit individuals, organisations and nations.
Championing the Arts and Humanities: in numbers

Strength and diversity

71% were rated world leading or internationally excellent by peers (REF2014; average percentage across Panel D)

31.5% of research-active academic community (REF2014*)

46% of AHRC’s portfolio supports collaborative research

AHRC supported over 1400 awards at 164 HEIs and IROs and over 3600 researchers and 830 PDRAs between 2010/11 and 2014/15.

AHRC portfolio: highly collaborative

Over 1,100 partner organisations on 518 awards (since 2010/11)

The 18 DTPs & CDTs involve 75 HEIs and 156 non-academic partners

AHRC-funded research publications were submitted to 28 of 36 REF sub-panels

At least 67% of awards on 01/04/15 can be deemed multi/interdisciplinary.

Academic/non-academic partners on AHRC awards are based in 44 countries on 6 continents

Global reputation/ ‘partner of choice’

Supporting multi/interdisciplinarity

Funding initiatives with national research funders in over 27 countries in Europe (e.g. through HERA), the Americas and Asia.
Championing the Arts and Humanities: wider impact

658 REF2014 Impact Case Studies referenced the AHRC across the Main Panel D sub-panels and three of the Main Panel C sub-panels. Some of the areas of impact highlighted included:

- Community cohesion and engagement
- Creative and digital economies
- Cultural tourism and regeneration
- Influence on practice and practitioners
- Informing and influencing policy and policymakers
- Heritage preservation and understanding
- Creating and supporting business
- Health and wellbeing
- Stimulating public debate and changing perceptions
- Designing innovative business and policy models
AHRC approach to collecting and highlighting impact-related information

- Updated website with features/case studies
- **Impact Wiki** – internal impact information collection tool
- **Researchfish** - collecting and analysing research outcomes information
- **Annual Impact Report**

- **Commissioning research/studies**
  Exploring more intangible aspects of impact measures e.g. Cultural Value project, projects within the cross-council Connected Communities programme
  Economic value studies e.g. PWC in 2009, Deloitte in 2015
Capturing/disseminating evidence of impact

Researchfish is an online facility that enables research funders and Research Organisations to track the impacts of their investments, and researchers to log the outputs, outcomes and impacts of their work.

*Used now by all seven UK Research Councils*

Gateway to Research helps highlight research expertise and findings from across the seven Research Councils & Innovate UK (Technology Strategy Board) easily accessible to other organisations such as higher education institutes, charities, government, business, and other members of the public.

www.gtr.rcuk.ac.uk

Next submission period:
1st February 2016 – 10th March 2016
Using Researchfish information

- Key findings
- Publications
- Research resources (e.g. databases, tools)
- Collaborations
- Further funding
- Non-print research outputs (e.g. software, exhibitions, films, performances)
- Next destinations
- Policy influence
- Spinouts/start-ups
- Dissemination activities
- Free-text section on impact
Using Researchfish information

3612 research publications published in 2013 and 2014 from 1292 awards

Awards active in 2013 and 2014

- **74 exhibitions** reported in Researchfish in relation to 50 awards (overall 1146 artistic and creative exhibitions reported)
- **250 other creative outputs** reported in Researchfish in relation to 77 awards which include: 63 artefacts (including digital); 29 artworks; 18 compositions/scores; 9 creative writing outputs; 63 films/videos; 68 performance related outputs.
- **93 databases and computer models** in relation to 64 awards
- **24 software and technical products** from 15 awards
- **157 policy-related entries** in relation to 97 awards

Further funding

- AHRC award holders have attracted £46.7m of further funding since 2010 on awards of a value of £43.7M (excluding further AHRC funding).
- £90.4M further funding attracted by AHRC awards holders including further AHRC funding since 2010 on awards of a value of £61.3M.
Leveraging £6m to reduce isolation among older people

- Loneliness among the elderly doubles the risk of dementia and triples the risk of heart conditions.
- With more people living into their eighties, it is crucial to alleviate pressures on public services.
- Co-design concepts and methodologies developed in a £100,000 AHRC funded project have leveraged almost £6m from the Big Lottery Fund to tackle isolation among the elderly.
- 12,000 elderly people in Sheffield are benefitting from the Ageing Better grant which uses co-design methods to deliver sustainable solutions to social isolation.
- Thanks to the grant, Sheffield plans to be an internationally recognised centre of excellence for services that reduce loneliness by 2021.
Cultural tourism and regeneration

*Cultural heritage tourism contributed over £26.4bn to the UK GDP*

- **Blackpool**: AHRC award supported a £40m award by European Regional Development Fund and others to Blackpool Council, a £1.24m HLF bid for the Museum of Blackpool. The award supported and established an annual event which, since 2009 has created an associated gross spending of over £6m. \(\text{Vanessa Toulmin}\)

- **Leicester**: AHRC-led Connected Communities award contributed to Leicester City Mayor’s Heritage Partnership, their cultural heritage policy *(see Heritage Action Plan)* and their £1.1m HLF bid allowing Leicester City Council to raise a further £2m. \(\text{Rebecca Madgin (Co-I)}\)

- **Liverpool**: Picasso Exhibition at the Tate Liverpool underpinned by AHRC research contributed £5m direct spending to the local economy and £1m in ticket revenue investment. \(\text{Lynda Morris}\)

- **Chester**: AHRC award led to two awards (2012 and 2014) from the Chester Civic Trust, Raised awareness of medieval heritage, the regeneration of the St John’s ruins area and helps to model Cheshire West and Chester Council's new public art policy, \(\text{Catherine Clarke}\).

- **Birmingham**: AHRC research informed the design of the £10m HLF-funded Birmingham History Galleries of Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery; and led to a £2.4m European Regional Development Fund project, *The Digital Heritage Demonstrator (DHD)*. \(\text{Richard Clay}\).

*Swansea, Lincolnshire.. and many more examples nationally and internationally....*
Using Researchfish information: developing a narrative/analysis on the impact of AHRC-funded research on the publishing sector

**OUP:** 409 unique publications linked to 279 awards. 108 monographs and 104 edited collections, critical editions, dictionaries and resources.

AHRC-funded research underpins 72 chapters in 58 publications within the Oxford Handbook Series (from Handbook of Ancient Anatolia to the Handbook of Danced Reenactment and the Handbook of Crime Prevention)

*Combined with information about graduate destinations into publishing, impact of research on publishing practices*

**The Historical Thesaurus of English: the final stages**

- **Use by the creative sector:** resource used by Hugo-Prize winning novelist, Mary Robinette Kowal, Pulizer-Prize winning novelist Geraldine Brooks, and Carnegie and Whitbread-prize winner Philip Pullman.

- **Impact on publishing sector and OUP:** since publication, it has been reprinted four times and seen print sales of £1.6m; named Book of the Year 2009 by The Guardian and The Times Literary Supplement.
Researching Multilingually at the Borders of Language, the Body, Law and the State: a new theatre piece being commissioned on migration and exploring instincts of humans. Charles Burdett, University of Bristol

Wales and the French Revolution: use of research in the teaching of A-level History in Wales. Mary-Ann Constantine, University of Wales

Metre and Melody in Dinka Speech and Song: Radio programmes on world music, collection of songs in British Library sound archive; Children's book of songs distributed by NGOs in South Sudan to support literacy development. Robert Ladd, University of Edinburgh

Informing and influencing policy and policy makers

- The AHRC’s current **public policy evidence base** includes examples of influence on:
  - government policy, legislation; informing government departments, military, policymakers and policy influencers
  - local authority/government policies and strategies
  - Impact on transnational bodies e.g. UN, European bodies
  - Informing/supporting NGOs to influence policy

- **AHRC and Human Rights Research and Policy Timeline**

http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/research/impact/informingpublicpolicy/
AHRC’s focus on impact evidence and analysis in 2015 and 2016

2015
• Embedding work on impact case studies across AHRC programme teams, using a selection of REF2014 case studies
• Launching a new website towards the end of 2015 showcasing different examples of impact across different disciplines.
• Exploring Researchfish information.

2016
• Drawing on Researchfish information to identify potential new impact case studies for the website/further analysis.
• Creating better guidance for the website: Working with the different research communities to better understand the challenges of articulating and documenting impact.
Thank you

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