

Dear Heads of Department/School

It is three years since APSA last updated its APSA-preferred journal list. This list is currently being used internally within a number of universities around the country.

Although ERA2012 and 2015 moved to an unranked journal list, there is nevertheless an interest in ranking those journals that APSA has not previously considered and - where there have been major changes in a journal's standing - reconsidering the 2013 APSA rankings to keep them up to date.

In order to facilitate this process, the APSA Executive has formed a working party made up of Adrian Kay (ANU), Katharine Gelber (UQ), Anika Gauja (Sydney) and Jason Sharman (Griffith). The working party will take submissions from members. The emphasis in this process will be on ranking those journals that have not previously been considered by APSA, especially those coded 1605 and 1606. In the interests of consistency and cogency, submissions arguing for the re-ranking of a journal that was previously ranked in the APSA2013 list should only be made where it is strongly argued that a change is justified.

Attached is an excel spreadsheet containing the existing 2013 APSA list for FoR 1606 and 1605.

Submissions are now open in the APSA journal ranking exercise, and will close **31 July 2016**. Submissions should be sent directly to Jason Sharman (j.sharman@griffith.edu.au).

The following criteria apply to submissions:

- a) Submissions should be evidence-based, and rely on data such as impact factor, citation rates, percentage of submissions accepted, and other issues to do with reputational quality. (Submissions that merely state that journal x should be re-ranked an A* because it's really good will not be considered.)
- b) Group submissions are particularly encouraged, but individual submissions will also be accepted.
- c) If a person or group making a submission has an interest in a journal being considered (i.e. is an editor, has had work published in or forthcoming with that journal, or is otherwise directly involved with the journal), this interest should be declared in the submission.
- d) To retain the credibility of the list, and encourage its use by universities, we will aim for an overall percentage of A*-ranked journals at 5% of the total, A-ranked at 15% of the total, B-ranked at 30% of the total, and C-ranked at 50% of the total.
- e) Submissions should be entirely merit-based. Arguments for the representation of a journal in a rank based on its sub-field or area of study will not be considered.
- f) Arguments for both promotion and demotion will be considered, based on the evidence presented.

Finally, please alert the Working Party to any errors in the list – all care has been taken, but the magnitude and complexity of the task mean errors may have inadvertently been made.

APSA Executive Committee – Working Party
June 2016