



Post Forum Report

WAGUL Research Forum 2017

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WAGUL Research Forum 2017

Executive summary

The 2017 WAGUL Research Forum was held on Wednesday July 19th at Fox Lecture Theatre, UWA. The theme for the day was Impact and Engagement in Research.

The Working Group was made up of one representative from each University including Jackie Stevens, who had been involved in organising the event the year before. The group noted a number of factors that would have facilitated planning and implementation of the Forum. These are submitted as suggestions for WAGUL to consider implementing for future Forum Working Groups. While the new WAGUL website would be a convenient location for storing and accessing these documents, an independent shareable Google Drive folder may more robust and convenient.

Summary of Working Group recommendations

1. WAGUL add the Research Forum Terms of Reference to the WAGUL web site for easy reference.
2. The host institution nominates at least two people to join the Working Group to assist with planning and task distribution.
3. At least one member of the previous year's Working Group be on the subsequent year's group to enable better knowledge transfer.
4. The Research Forum Working Group 2017 share the design templates to assist with planning future programs/flyers to facilitate efficiencies for the following year's working group.
5. The Research Forum Working Group 2018 revise the schedule of the Forum.
6. The Research Forum Working Group 2018 investigate how to increase the networking component of the event.
7. The Research Forum Working Group 2018 use a panel discussion topic that keeps discussion tied to the researcher/library relationship.
8. WAGUL and Research Forum Working Group 2018 consider flexible approaches for larger institutions in RSVP planning.

Background

The WAGUL Research Forum (the Forum), one of three professional development events sponsored annually by WAGUL, provides an opportunity for WA academic and research librarians to participate



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in, and contribute to, a collegial forum which focuses on a topical research theme. Re-envisioned from a full day event to a half day forum in 2016 due to budget limitations, this successful format was adopted again in 2017. Representatives from each of the five Western Australian universities came together to form a Working Group, and were tasked with planning, developing and organising the event, supported by WAGUL through regular consultation.

Working Group members:

- Toby Burrows (UWA) / Matthias Liffers (UWA) - Conveners
- Jennifer Moore (ECU)
- Tamara Capper (Murdoch)
- John Brown (Curtin)
- Jackie Stevens (Notre Dame)

The Forum attracted 82 registrations, including guest researchers, university and CSIRO librarians, library technicians, library officers, LIS students and a representative from ANDS.

Forum costs were contained to travel and accommodation costs, catering and speaker gifts. This enabled the Working Group to maintain the maximum attendance per university from previous years. Costs were covered by UWA, the host university, and are detailed in Appendix 3.

Planning and implementation

Planning commenced in early April 2017, which proved to be an acceptable timeframe for a July event given we had the benefit of the previous year's planning templates. Scheduling the Forum during the semester break facilitated additional staff member attendance during a quieter time on campus and arrange a venue booking.

Most members of the Working Group were new to the task of organising this particular event and drew heavily on colleagues, past Working Group members and WAGUL to ascertain the parameters in which to operate. The WAGUL Event Terms of Reference would have provided valuable guidance to enable efficient Forum planning but the Working Group didn't have access to this document until late in the planning process .

Recommendation 1: WAGUL add the Research Forum Terms of Reference to the WAGUL web site for easy reference.

In keeping with past protocols, the member from the host institution assumed the Working Group coordinator role. During the event planning stages however, that team member left the group, and there were some (inevitable) gaps and issues in continuity of the handing over of tasks. The Working



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Group suggests therefore, that it may be beneficial if the host institution could allow two members to sit on the committee to assist with event logistics..

Recommendation 2: The host institution nominates at least two people to join the Working Group to assist with planning and task distribution.

Recommendation 3: At least one member of the previous year’s Working Group be on the subsequent year’s group to enable better knowledge transfer.

Summary of planning activities:

- Develop the program
- Identify potential speakers
- Contact and liaise with guest speakers
- Organise the venue, catering and guest parking
- Liaise with university representatives/staff members
- Define and promote Twitter hashtag
- Design event posters
- Purchase speaker gifts
- Develop event running sheet, task allocation spreadsheet and order of proceedings document
- Evaluate the event, including develop an online evaluation form and analyse the results
- Share the Forum program and slides via the WAGUL Events page¹
- Prepare and circulate the post forum report

Planning documents including a task list, running sheet and program planning documents have been compiled with a view to saving them as templates in Google Docs² to assist future Working Groups.

Planning tools

Working Group Collaboration	Google docs and Google sheets
Evaluation	LibWizard Surveys
Promotional material	Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop

Program

The Forum theme was centered around Impact and Engagement in Research by the two keynote speeches and reinforced by the Research Panel and Library Showcase.

¹ WAGUL Events <https://wagul.library.curtin.edu.au/events/>

² Google Docs template folder <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B-xIlyO9xxFvZmNUNmp4X3JacGc>



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The Working Group members were interested in ideas around the real world impact of their research, but also thinking about creative disruption and the impact that outside forces are having on traditional research and information.

The program, attached as Appendix 1, was finalised and circulated in July.

There was a last minute change to the program as one of the original speakers, Professor Phil Bland had a double booking the week prior to the event. Luckily, the committee was able to arrange for one of the speakers from the Research Panel to step up and become the second Keynote.

Professor Bland arranged for a colleague to take a space on the Research Panel.

Session 1: Interstate Keynote - *Engagement-led Research*

The criterion for the keynote speaker was 'a person in, or related to the tertiary sector who was considered a leader or expert on the impact of research on the real world and could speak with considerable experience on this topic'. The Working Group explored numerous options around keynote speakers, including inviting interstate presenters, and provided a short list of speakers to WAGUL. The Forum's keynote was Professor Deb Verhoeven, Chair of Media and Communications (Deakin University). Professor Verhoeven's talk discussed engagement and societal impact, the importance of non-traditional research outputs, alternative research funding methods, innovative methods and approaches to data linkage, data visualisation, and the role of academic and research libraries within the changing landscape.

Session 2: Local Keynote- *Supporting the Entrepreneurial University: From Understanding To Relevance*

The Working Group explored relevant local keynote options in relation to the chosen theme for the Forum. Professor Bland was originally chosen to speak regarding his research into 'Fireballs in the Sky' - the impact of meteorites making a real world impact via citizen science. A last minute change to the program as Professor Bland was double booked, allowed for the second option, local Researcher, Professor Pi-Shen Seet, Professor of Entrepreneurship and Innovation (ECU) stepped in to present.

Luckily, Professor Pi-Shen Seet provided a highly relevant presentation in a limited time frame.

Professor Seet presented on *Supporting the Entrepreneurial University: From Understanding To Relevance* and addressed supporting and enabling industry-engagement within an academic research context, global trends in research commercialisation, innovation networks and contrasted academic research models with industry research models. The presentation gave a rich and contrasting view of the modern academic research sector and how libraries can play a role.



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Session 3: Research support across WA academic/research libraries

The session was aimed to showcase and encourage discussion around what other WA Academic/Research libraries are currently doing in the research space.

Library speakers were encouraged to stick to a concise 3-5 minute brief report with minimal slides.

The speaker details and presentation below:

- Kate Croker, Acting Manager, Research Publication & Data Services (UWA) *Centralisation of research publications*
- Janice Chan, Acting Manager, Research Services (Curtin) *Rethinking research support services*
- Poh Lin Teow, Library Research Services (ECU) *Collaborative and promotional activities at the ECU Library*
- Joanne Richards, Research Repository Coordinator (Murdoch) *UN Sustainable Goals and Research Repository*
- Jackie Stevens, Manager, Research Services (Notre Dame) *Open access and the institutional repository: Demonstrating impact*

Session 4: Researchers Panel

Inclusion of a researcher panel focusing on the theme was based on past feedback from the 2014 WAGUL Research Day report. The report indicated that attendees highly valued having researchers share their experiences. Composition of the panel represented STEM and HASS researchers, early career and experienced researchers, and research undertaken in partnership with industry as well as research supporting clinical practice. The Researcher Panel included:

- Professor Deb Verhoeven (Deakin),
- Professor Pi-Shen Seet (ECU),
- Dr Philipp Bayer - School of Biological Sciences (UWA),
- Renae Sayers - Science Outreach Officer (Curtin),
- Dr Yvonne Haigh - Senior Lecturer in Policy and Governance (Murdoch).

The Working Party liaised with the panel prior to the event regarding theme and drafted a list of potential questions if audience questions were not forthcoming.



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Promotion

Information about the Forum was communicated via Twitter #WAGULRF17, via internal university communication channels and on the WAGUL blog. The WAGUL blog also provides a forum to catch up and continue discussion after the event.

As the Research Forum is a WAGUL event the Working Group updated previous WAGUL branding rather than that of the hosting institution. Design of the flyer for the event was allocated to a staff member from outside of the Working Group. Unfortunate work timing from the staff member limited the Working Group in planning and promotion of the event but as the event garnered more applications to attend than could be accommodated, the impact was minimal.

Recommendation 4: The Research Forum Working Group 2017 share the design templates to assist with planning future programs/flyers to facilitate efficiencies for the following year's working group.

The template will be handed over to the 2018 WAGUL Working Group.

Evaluation

Feedback was collected via an online evaluation form (using LibWizard) distributed to attendees following the session. Of the estimated 82 attendees, 45 filled out the survey and only 27 gave detail.

A brief overview below: Further detail in Appendix 2.

The 45 replies rated the event as such:

- 19 excellent
- 19 very good
- 5 good
- 2 fair

Of the 27 detailed text replies:

- 6 wanted more researcher panel time
- 2 wanted Less researcher panel time
- 7 wanted more library presentation time
- 4 wanted less library presentation time

The two other aspects evident include:

- 5 complained about the tea/coffee set up



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- 7 wanted more networking time

Because of the low response rate the Working Group were hesitant to draw any strong conclusions. However, after comparison with the results of the 2016 Forum survey the following emerged:

Recurring Feedback themes include:

- The length of library research support presentation time is contentious. It's either "just right as too long becomes boring" or "too short and the presentations felt rushed".

Recommendation 5: The Research Forum Working Group 2018 revise the schedule of the Forum.

- Attendees definitely consider networking to be a significant aspect of this event. The length of morning team and logistics are common points of complaint.

Recommendation 6: The Research Forum Working Group 2018 investigate how to increase the networking component of the event.

- The Researcher Panel section needs to stay on the topic of "how libraries can support research" and audience question time is necessary.

Recommendation 7: The Research Forum Working Group 2018 use a panel discussion topic that keeps discussion tied to the researcher/library relationship.

- WAGUL to consider larger institutions in RSVP planning - the current registration cap limits those who are interested in attending. Larger universities would like to send more attendees, even if no morning tea is provided.

Recommendation 8: WAGUL and Research Forum Working Group 2018 consider flexible approaches for larger institutions in RSVP planning.



Appendix 1: Program

9.00am - 9.10am

Welcome by Scott Nicholls (UWA)

9:10am - 10:20am

Keynote Speaker: Professor Deb Verhoeven (Chair of Media and Communications at Deakin University)

In 2013 Professor Verhoeven initiated the Research My World collaboration between Deakin University and the crowdfunding platform *pozible.com* to pilot the micro-financing of university research. On the basis of this initiative Verhoeven was recognised by Campus Review as Australia's most innovative academic.

10.20am - 10.45am

Morning tea

10.45am - 11.15am

5 Minute Presentations

1. Kate Croker, Acting Manager, Research Publication & Data Services (UWA) *Centralisation of research publications*
2. Janice Chan, Acting Manager, Research Services (Curtin) *Rethinking research support services*
3. Poh Lin Teow, Library Research Services (ECU) *Collaborative and promotional activities at the ECU Library*
4. Joanne Richards, Research Repository Coordinator (Murdoch) *UN Sustainable Goals and Research Repository*
5. Jackie Stevens, Manager, Research Services (Notre Dame) *Open access and the institutional repository: Demonstrating impact*

11.15am - 11.45pm

Local Speaker: Professor Pi-Shen Seet (Professor of Entrepreneurship and Innovation)

Pi-Shen is Professor of Entrepreneurship and Innovation in the Management discipline at the School of Business and Law at Edith Cowan University.

He is currently conducting research and supervising research students in the areas of entrepreneurship, innovation, international business and human resource management.

Pi-Shen has recently been appointed as one of WA's Rhodes Application Network Advisors for the prestigious Rhodes Scholarship.

11.45am - 12.25pm

Panel Discussion

Impact and engagement in research (providing insight into research and publishing decisions and impact and engagement). Includes Q&A session.

1. Professor Deb Verhoeven (Deakin),
2. Professor Pi-Shen Seet (ECU),
3. Dr Philipp Bayer - School of Biological Sciences (UWA),
4. Renae Sayers - Science Outreach Officer (Curtin),



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5. Dr Yvonne Haigh - Senior Lecturer in Policy and Governance (Murdoch).

12.25pm - 12.30pm

Closing statement by Scott Nicholls



Appendix 2: Analysis of survey responses

Total number of respondents: 45

How useful was the content presented at the event? (Where 1 is "Not very useful" and 5 is "Extremely useful")

The 45 replies rated the event as such:

- 19 excellent
- 19 very good
- 5 good
- 2 fair

Of the 27 detailed text replies:

- 6 wanted more researcher panel time
- 2 wanted Less researcher panel time
- 7 wanted more library presentation time
- 4 wanted less library presentation time

The two other aspects which came out:

- 5 complained about the tea/coffee set up
- 7 wanted more networking time

Recurring Feedback themes include:

- The length of library research support presentation time is contentious. It's either "just right as too long becomes boring" or "too short and the presentations felt rushed".
- Attendees definitely consider networking to be a significant aspect of this event. Morning tea time length and setup is consistently will be heavily scrutinised closely.
- The Researcher Panel section needs to stay on the topic of "how libraries can support research" and audience question time is necessary.
- WAGUL to consider larger institutions in RSVP planning - the current registration cap limits those who are interested in attending. Larger universities would like to send more attendees, even if no morning tea is provided.



Appendix 3: Forum budget

Item	Estimated	Actual
KEYNOTE		
Flights for Professor Deb Verhoeven	\$800	\$736.16
Accommodation for Professor Deb Verhoeven	\$300	\$199
Speaker fees	Nil	Nil
Total cost	\$1100	\$935.16
CATERING		
Estimated catering cost (GST excl.)	\$700	\$724
GST	\$70	\$72.43
Total cost	\$770	\$796.80
PRESENTER GIFTS		
Oxfam voucher (@\$50 per session guest)	\$250	\$250
Total gift cost	\$250	\$250
Contingency 10%	\$210	n/a
Total forum cost	\$2330.00	\$1981.96