

VU Law list – MoRA Procedure

Summary:

Current Journal lists used to assess the Quality of outputs in the Law discipline through the MoRA process do not reflect the quality of Journals as relevant to the Australian Law discipline as they have a strong bias towards American publication practices. It is proposed that VU create a Law List that will provide a more appropriate quality guide as relevant to researchers within the Law discipline in Australia.

Deakin Law list background:

The Business and Law Faculty Research Committee (Deakin) has developed an agreed ranking of journal and book publisher quality, to assist law authors to select the best quality publishing outlet for their research. The journal quality rankings are based on the ABDC Journal Quality List, with additional material incorporated from the CORE list (for Information Systems and Business Analytics and the DBS) and the Washington and Lee ranking (for the Deakin Law School).

The creation of a VU Law List:

Senior staff of *VU Research* and the Dean of the College of Law & Justice agreed to develop a VU Law List based on the Deakin Law list with modifications to ensure that the VU goals (such as strong performance in ERA and Times Higher Ed Rankings (THE)) are supported. The working group was comprised of Warren Payne (Vice President, Research), Donna Hannan (Director, Research Services), Stephen Gray (Executive Director, ISILC), Michael Stuckey (Dean of the College of Law & Justice) and Alex Skevofylakas (Manager, Research Performance Reporting).

The approved VU Law List is to be constructed as follows:

1. All Deakin Law List Journals on the 2018 ARC Journal List with Deakin Law List Ranks
2. All ARC “ERA 2018 Submission Journal List” Journals within the Field of Research 18 Law and Legal studies with the Rank in the provided attachment (Ranks as agreed by 2018 ERA steering Committee)
3. Any SCOPUS SCIMAGO Journals missing from 1 and 2 above with the SCIMAGO quartile

As per the MoRA procedure weightings will be applied comparable to the ABDC list as follows:

(45) SCImago annually ranks Scopus-indexed journals in quartiles. Other nationally recognised Outlet Ranking lists that will be used are as follows:

- a. For staff predominantly aligned with the two digit FoR 15 Commerce, Management, Tourism and Services the most current Australian Business Deans Council (ABDC) journal list will be used and the following quality multipliers applied:
 1. A* and A ranked journals, a multiplier of 2.0, (Q1)
 2. B ranked journal, a multiplier of 1.0, (Q2)
 3. C ranked journal, a multiplier of 0.5, and (Q3)
 4. Not Ranked, a multiplier of 0.2. (Q4)

It was agreed that the VU Law list will apply to the following staff

1. All staff in the College of Law and Justice (Clevel 3).
2. All staff with a majority FoR (50% or greater) in the FOR 18 – Law and Legal studies

Responsibilities:

It is the responsibility of Research Services to compile the VU Law List on an annual basis in accordance with the VU Law List approved construction method. The Research Services team will download the relevant lists from the appropriate sources on an annual basis and provide the compiled list to the Dean of the College of Law & Justice for approval by the 31st July of each calendar year. The Dean Approved list will be provided to the Vice President of Research for final approval. Upon approval, Research Services will import the current approved VU Law list into the MoRA system to overwrite the non-current version.

Journal List sources:

Deakin Law List: <http://www.deakin.edu.au/students/faculties/buslaw/research/build/journal-rankings> (sourced via the Dean of Law & Justice when not publicly available)

ARC Journal List: <https://www.arc.gov.au/excellence-research-australia/key-documents>
(provided from the ARC as no longer publicly available)

SCOPUS SCImago: <https://www.scimagojr.com/>