

Journal lists and the ERA

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The ARC research evaluation team, lead by Andrew Calder, has established a Mathematical Sciences Working group consisting of Andrew, Lauren Johnston from ARC, Phil Howlett (UniSA), Michael Murray (Adelaide), David Steel (Wollongong) and Hyam Rubinstein (Melbourne). A meeting was held in Adelaide on 5 July to discuss how best to finalise the journal lists in the field of research (FoR) codes for the mathematical sciences.

It was decided that small panels will be reconvened, to look at the current list, which has been generated by submissions from individuals and institutions to the ARC. These will be coordinated by Phil (applied: 0102 and 0103), Michael (math physics: 0105), David (statistics and probability: 0104) and Hyam (pure: 0101).

The ARC will provide some support for travel and other costs associated with this activity and it is intended that the list be finalised by early October. There will be an opportunity for members of the Australian Mathematical Society and the Statistical Society of Australia to make comments on the draft list in September after some work has been done by the panels. Submissions will be made through the AustMS and Statistical Society of Australia Incorporated (SSAI) rather than directly to the panels.

Discussions have been held on mechanisms to take into account the wide variety of journals in which mathematicians and statisticians publish, so that a fair evaluation can take place of the overall activity of mathematics and statistics groups in universities.



Hyam is Chair of the National Committee for Mathematical Sciences and was the Chair of the working party of the National Strategic Review of Mathematical Sciences Research which was completed during 2006. He is interested in geometric topology, differential geometry, shortest networks and has been at Melbourne University so long that he gets to walk behind the Chancellor at academic processions for graduation ceremonies.

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