

Elsevier endorses the Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment (20 July 2022)

Elsevier helps researchers and healthcare professionals advance science and improve health outcomes for the benefit of society. In line with this, we take seriously our role as a stakeholder in the knowledge ecosystem to foster fair and meaningful research assessment systems and support the responsible use of both qualitative and quantitative indicators for research assessment. Accordingly, [Elsevier](#) endorses the recently published [Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment](#) (the 'Agreement').

The Agreement sets out a range of principles and commitments to reforming research assessment, underscoring a vision that the assessment of research, researchers and research organizations recognize the diverse outputs, practices and activities that maximize the quality and impact of research. Elsevier works to uphold these principles, and already delivers on many of the Agreement's commitments.

For many years, Elsevier has demonstrated commitments to responsible use of metrics and indicators in the evaluation of research, and to basing research assessment on qualitative evaluation. For example, in line with research communities, we have sought to reduce overreliance and inappropriate application of the Journal Impact Factor, and we support and invest in the development of suitable indicators for all levels of research evaluation. In 2019, Elsevier [established The International Center for the Study of Research](#) which works in partnership with the research community to further the study of research, particularly in areas of researcher-level evaluation and research impact, and to develop responsible approaches to research evaluation. In 2020, Elsevier joined organizations and researchers globally who are collectively pursuing a fair and balanced approach to research assessment by endorsing the [Leiden Manifesto for Research Metrics](#), and signing and upholding the [Declaration on Research Assessment \(DORA\)](#) principles.

We will continue to expand on our work to support the Agreement's core commitments, which include:

Recognizing diverse contributions to, and careers in, research: Via a collaborative research project, we are taking a [fresh approach](#) to recognizing the multiple and complementary roles researchers play in the research that leads to peer-reviewed publications.

Abandoning inappropriate uses of journal- and publication-based metrics in research assessment: We are currently collaborating with Queensland University of Technology to advance the responsible use of indicators beyond publications and citations, such as mentoring, social media engagement and open publication, to supplement shortlisting for academic recruitment and foster [diversity and equity](#).

Basing research assessment on qualitative evaluation: We experiment in and advance the peer review processes we coordinate via [new initiatives](#) and innovations, for instance registered reports. We also invest in enhancing editorial assessment processes, such as [working with the industry](#) to nurture ethics and integrity in research and uphold best practice.

Close collaboration between all stakeholders in the research ecosystem globally will be essential for advancing qualitative assessment and developing – and responsibly deploying – a diverse suite of research metrics that inform holistic research assessment. Elsevier is eager to participate in this vital exchange. **We are united with the research community in our aim to nurture a research culture that values and rewards above all: inclusion, rigor, integrity and impact to advance science and society.**