Title:

Measuring Research Quality: Approaches and Issues

Abstract:
Measurement of ‘research quality’ arises in a variety of contexts, including ranking of individuals in a department, university departments for a given discipline, research centres, and worldwide ranking of universities themselves. Allocation of research funding, recruitment of faculty and students and placement of graduates in jobs can depend critically on the results of the rankings. Yet there is no general agreement on methodology to create the ranking, with approaches spanning the spectrum from the completely objective (e.g. based on so-called ‘bibliometrics’) to the completely subjective (so-called ‘peer review’). This talk discusses aspects of the various approaches and the issues they raise, and presents a new approach based on current research in performance measurement that has been developed to assess the quality of applied research at an Australian university.