

The role of Research Offices in supporting research software as research outputs

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NSTF Discussion forum: Research software as enabler and research output

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Presentation Outline



What is Research Management (RM)



Maturity level of research management support



Practical example



RO support

Research management

Research management involves the capabilities that research focused organisations harness to optimize and amplify processes and impacts of their research activity and outcomes.

RM consists of research planning, strategy and policy development, research ethics, researcher development, partnerships and collaborations, research funding, managing funded research, research data and research information management, research uptake and utilisation, organisational delivery of RM service. RM also includes transversal area such as societal and research values, innovation and utilization of technologies, internationalisation and knowledge management.

Williamson, C (2016): adapted from the SARIMA Professional Competency Framework & Langley, D. & Green J. (2009) Professionalising research management: *Research Global*, 1-39.

HIGH-LEVEL SUMMARY OF THE PCF'S KEY COMPETENCY AREAS (KCA'S)



RESEARCH PLANNING, STRATEGY AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Facilitate and support the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of research policy and strategy across the competency areas

Sub-Area: Facilitate and support the development and implementation of research policy and strategy		
LEVEL 1: Administrative/Operational	LEVEL 2: Management	LEVEL 3: Leadership/Strategic
- Understand the research process - Contribute to team efforts in a proactive manner	- Demonstrate knowledge of the full research cycle - Interpret and translate policy for research management - Apply knowledge of the full programme and project	- Translate requirements for the full research cycle - Scan the environment to assess the impact of trends in the research environment



RM maturity level

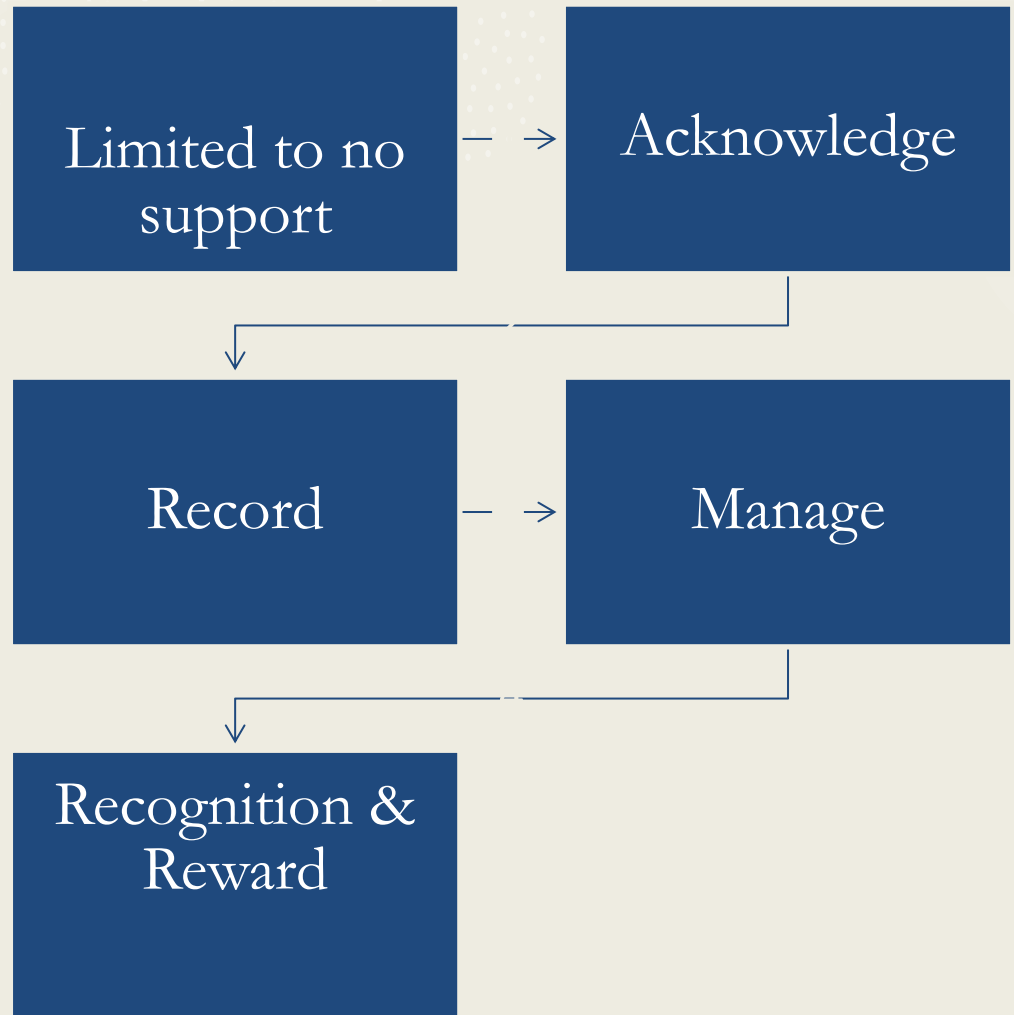
In your institution or organisation

What support did you receive?

What support do you provide (research support)

How does your institution recognize research software (if applicable)?

RM maturity level





Institutions track publications, grants and PG students, patents.

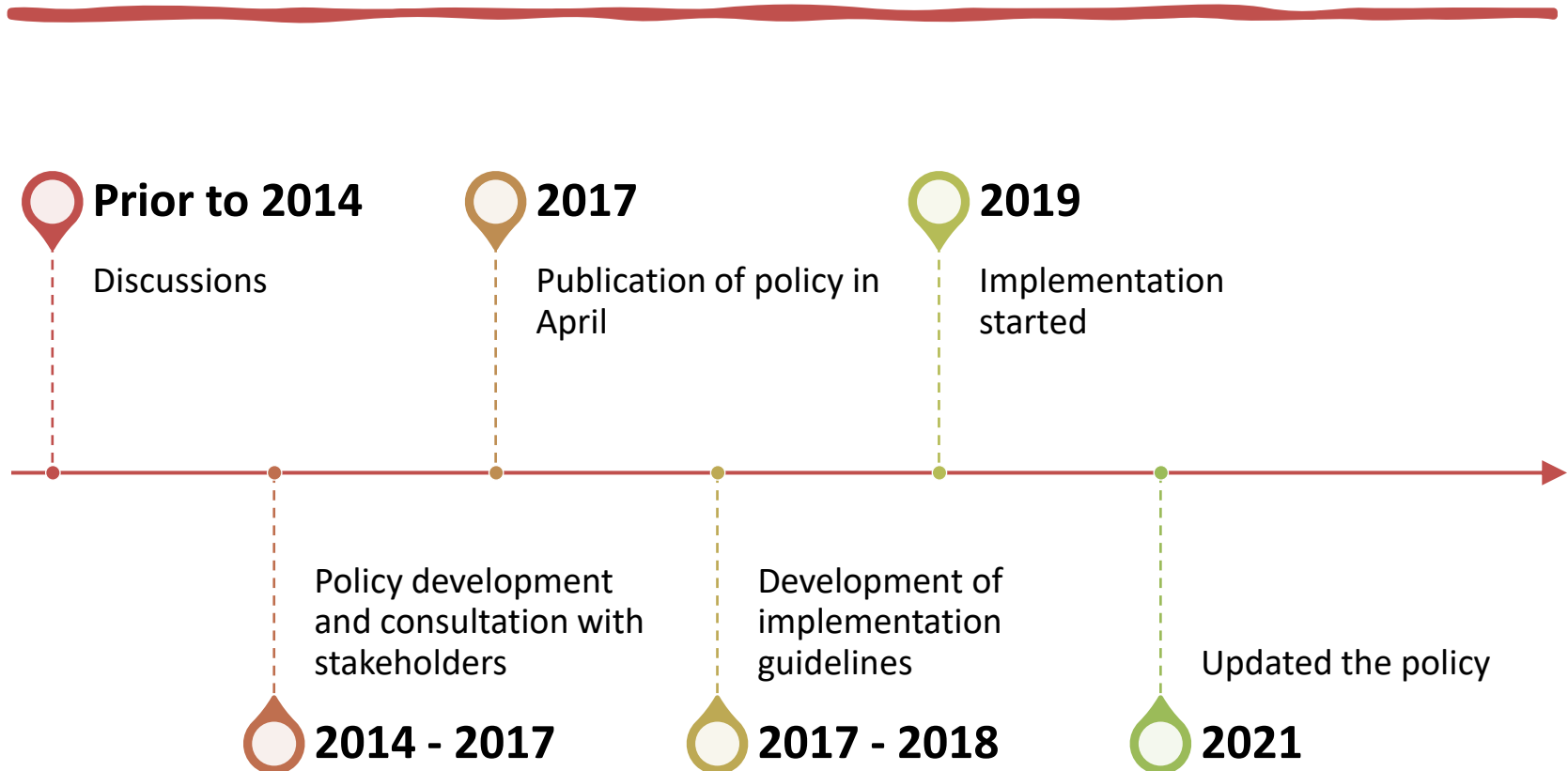


Many institutions do not systematically track software outputs, reuse or their impact.



All not lost: DHET Creative outputs & innovations

Policy on the Evaluation of Creative Outputs and Innovations Produced by Public Higher Education Institutions (2017)



What role can Research Offices play



Research project life cycle & research support

Life cycle	Possible research software content	Who
Funds seeking	Funder expectations on sharing code; national policy on publicly funded outputs	Pre-award professionals
Proposal development and approval	RSE time costed; software management plan alongside the DMP; intended licence	Researcher, pre-award, eResearch
Proposal submission	Software named as a planned output	Researcher, pre-award
Contracting	Licensing and IP terms for code, including funder and partner terms	Research contracts
Project setup and management	Version control, citation file, Ziva Hub and GitHub	Researcher, eResearch, ICT, Libraries
Project closure	Release deposited in Ziva Hub with a DOI and licence, linked to publications; code handover when people leave	Researcher, Libraries, Research Office

Report: Inaugural South African Research Software Symposium 2025



Unpacking Research Software

Software increasingly underpins modern research, yet much of it remains invisible. This talk explores what research software is, where it appears across the research lifecycle, and why recognising and supporting it matters for the future of research.

Presenter: Anelda Van der Walt



Enhancing research software recognition and provenance in scholarly publishing

£ Funding
Fully funded (UK only)

📄 Type of degree
Doctor of Philosophy

✓ Entry requirements
2:1 honours degree
[View full entry requirements](#)

🏛️ Faculty graduate school
Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences

📅 Closing date
31 May 2025



Research Software Awards

Key take aways

- ❑ Research Office or research support is a key partner
- ❑ Advocate for research software to have greater recognition at insitutional and national level
- ❑ Research project life cycle
- ❑ DHET example – get involved at implementation phase

Thank You

