

**FELLOWSHIP DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMME 2025-26**

**PUBLICATION STRATEGIES,
OPEN ACCESS, AND REF
OUTPUTS**

Dr Natalie Wallis – Outputs Development Manager
Martin Wolf – Head of Open Research
Bob Cooney – Research and Impact Strategy Manager

Wednesday 12th November 2025



SCHEDULE FOR THE SESSION

1. Research outputs & publication strategies
2. 5 min Q&A
3. Open access & output strategy
4. 5 min Q&A
5. REF and 3*/4* Outputs
6. 5 min Q&A
7. Broader Q&A/discussion

Research Outputs & Publication Strategies

Natalie Wallis – Outputs Development Manager

OUTPUTS DEVELOPMENT TEAM

■ Research and Impact Strategy

OUR AIM

Overarching aim: Improve the quality and impact of research outputs at University of Liverpool

Why? To help researcher development, improve REF performance, and align with institutional strategies

OUTPUTS DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Research and Impact Strategy



UNIVERSITY OF
LIVERPOOL

University Library

Enterprise team



External bodies

OUTPUTS DEVELOPMENT

Research and Impact
Strategy (RIS) team

Faculties

RESEARCH OUTPUTS & PUBLICATION STRATEGIES

WHAT IS A RESEARCH OUTPUT?

- A research output refers to a tangible product of research activity that contributes new knowledge or insights.
- Over **22*** types of research outputs in REF2021:

A – Authored book

B – Edited book

C – Chapter in book

D – Journal article

E – Conference contribution

F – Patent/published patent application

G – Software

H – Website content

I – Performance

J – Composition

K – Design

L – Artefact

M – Exhibition

N – Research report for external body

O – Confidential report for external body

P – Devices and products

Q – Digital or visual media

R – Scholarly edition

S – Research data sets and databases

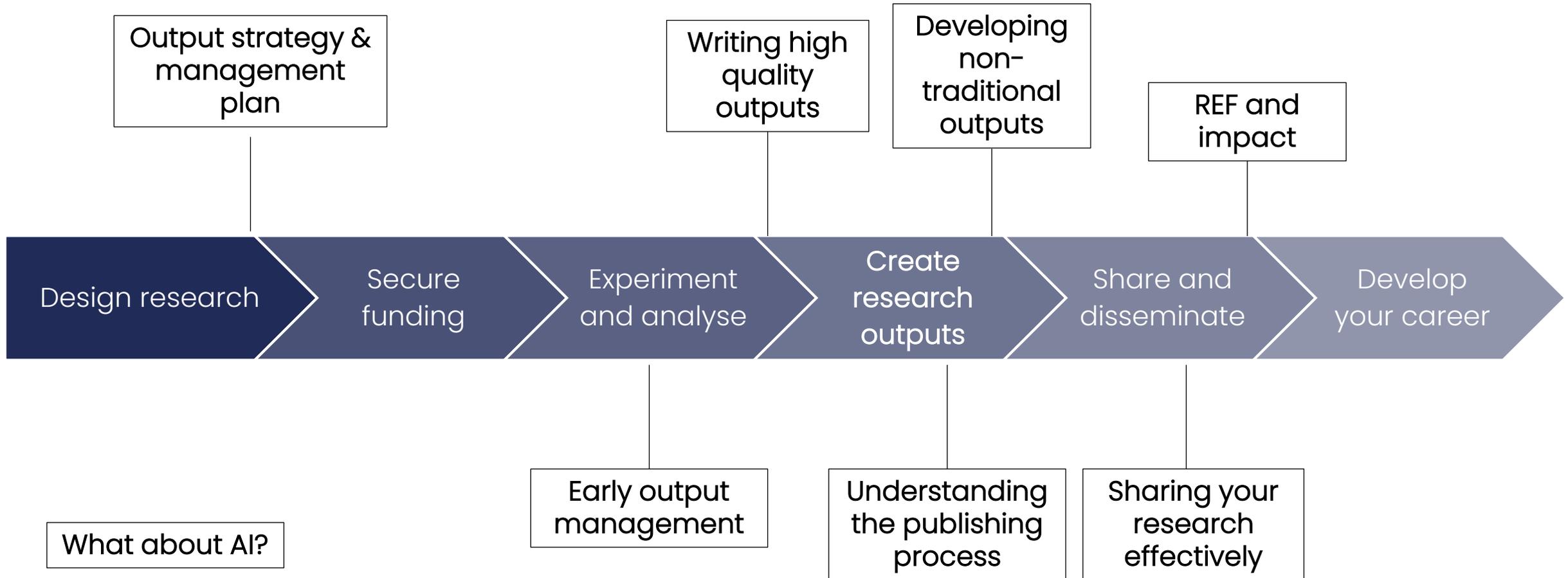
T – Other

U – Working paper

V – Translation

OUTPUTS DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Research and Impact Strategy

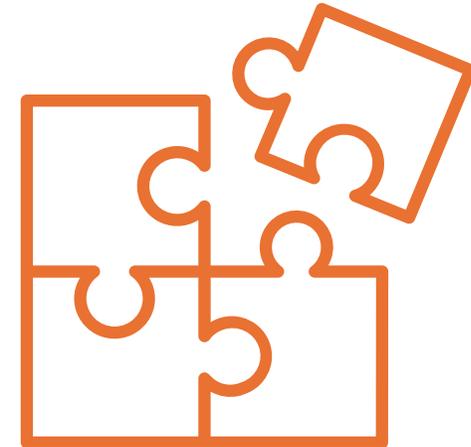


OUTPUTS DEVELOPMENT TEAM

WHAT WE DO

- Development of resources
- Events, workshops and training
- Institutional oversight of strategic frameworks

■ Research and Impact Strategy

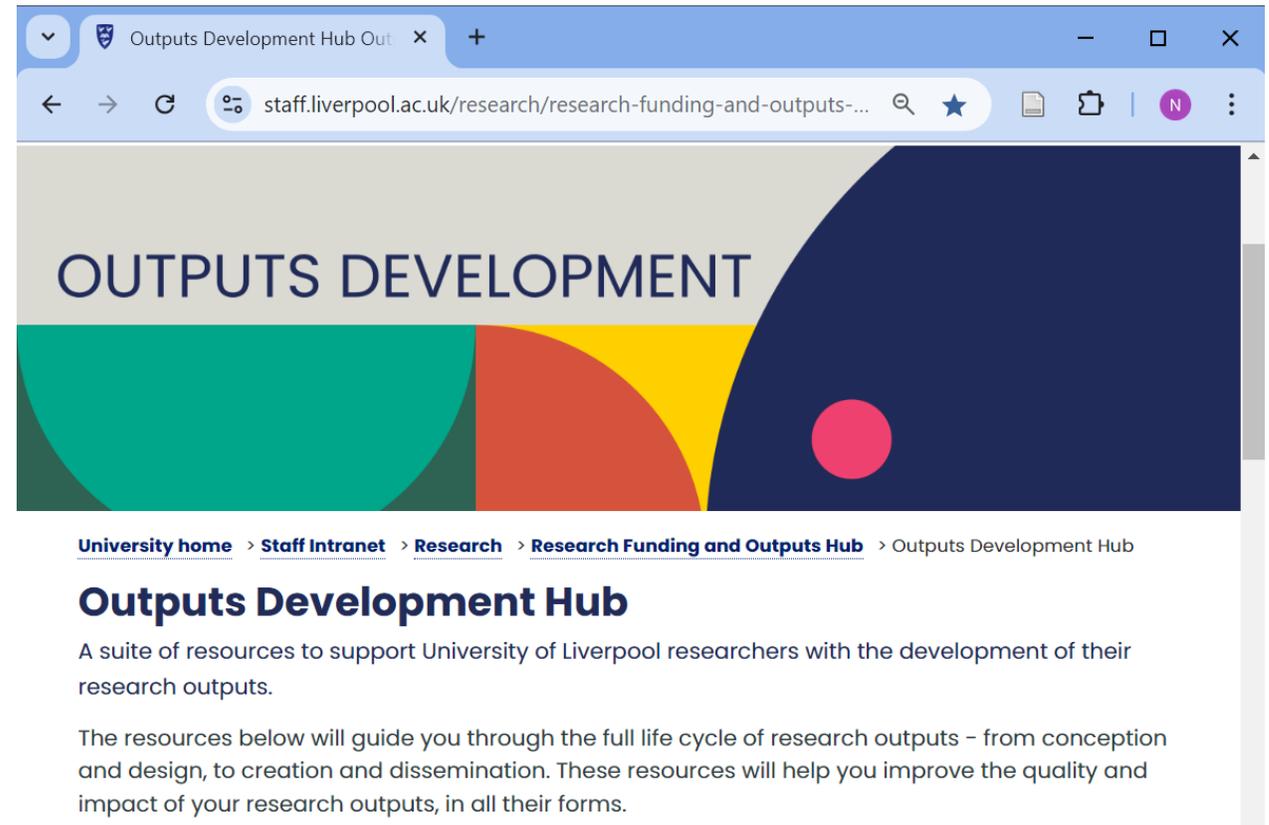


OUTPUTS DEVELOPMENT TEAM

WHAT WE DO

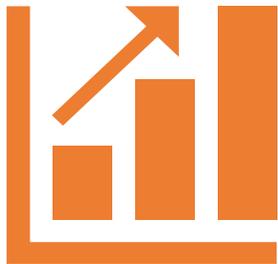


<https://staff.liverpool.ac.uk/research/research-funding-and-outputs-hub/outputs/>



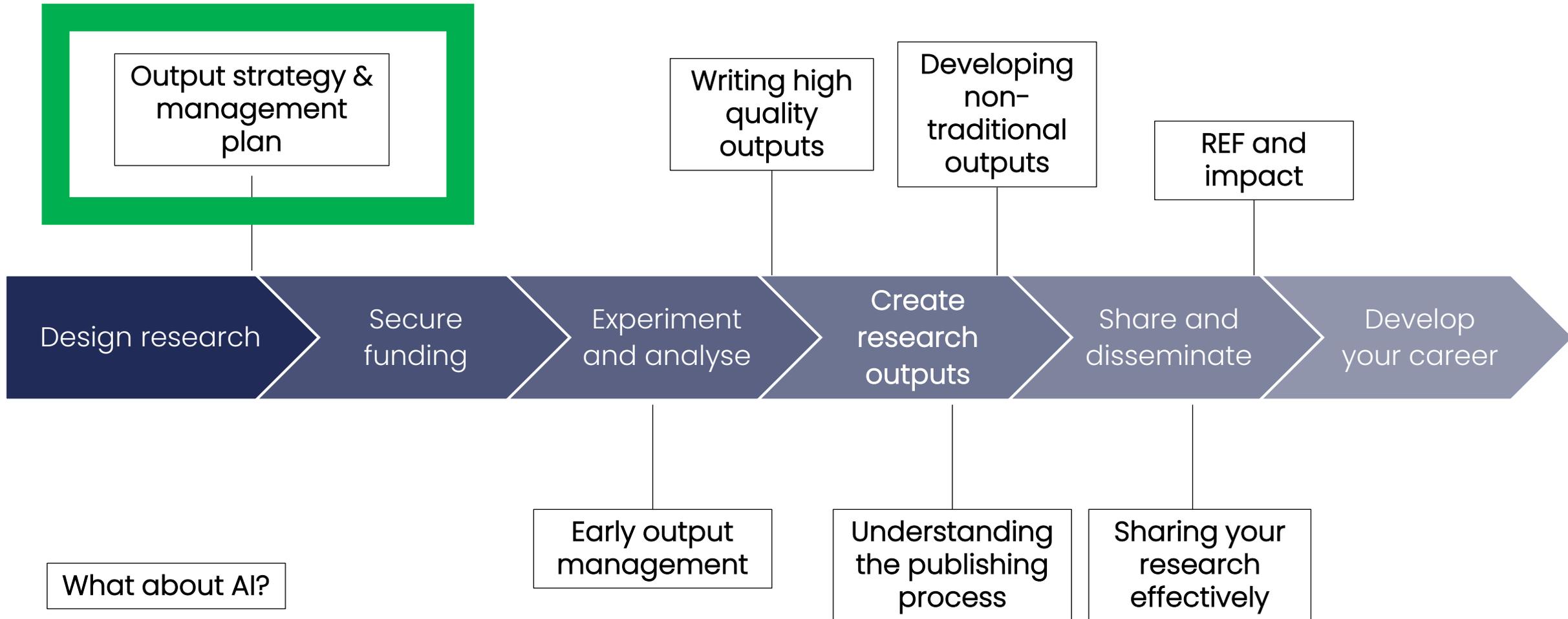
RESEARCH OUTPUTS & PUBLICATION STRATEGIES

WHY ARE RESEARCH OUTPUTS IMPORTANT?



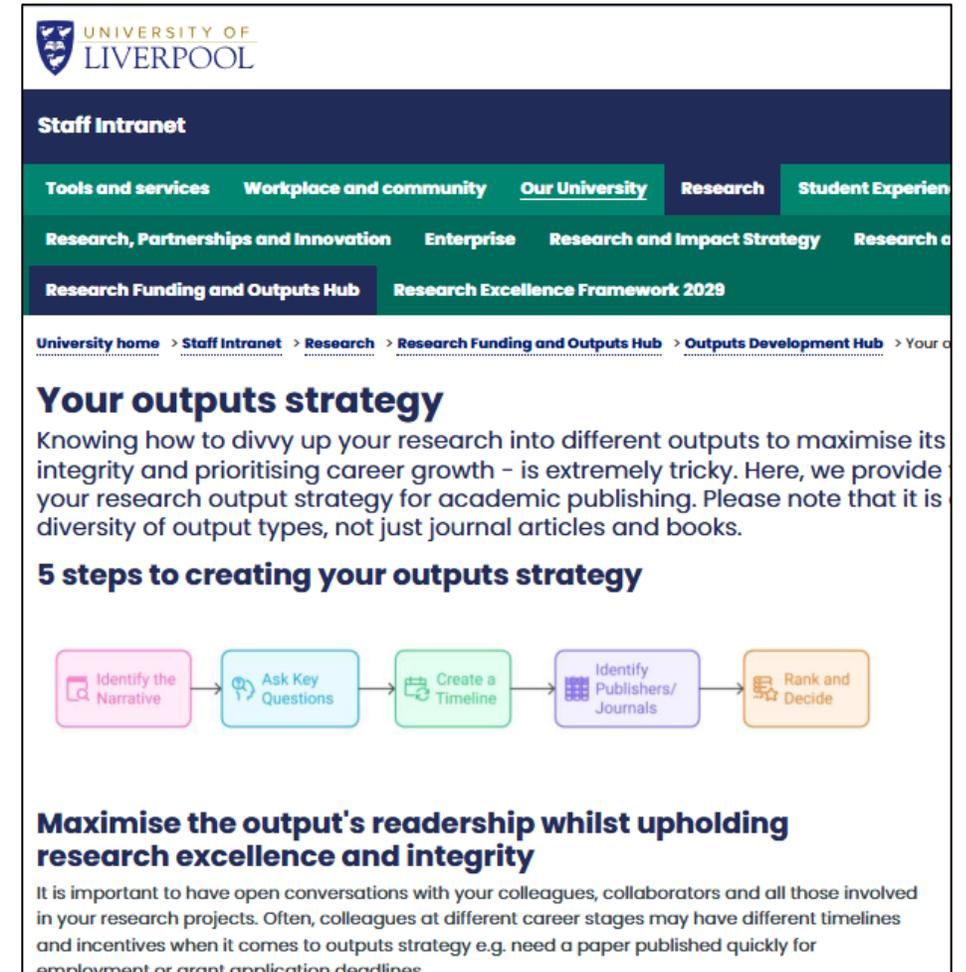
- They are the key vehicle for disseminating your research.
- They advance knowledge, innovation, and societal progress.
- They are essential for career progression, recognition, and funding success.
- They enhance visibility and reputation for you and your institution.
- They facilitate future collaboration and interdisciplinary partnerships.
- They are integral to the research process

OUTPUTS DEVELOPMENT TEAM



RESEARCH OUTPUTS & PUBLICATION STRATEGIES

- Output planning should come **early** in the research life cycle
- **Slicing up** your research appropriately
- Selecting the best output **format(s)**
- Getting the **most** out of your research
- Be **dynamic** – things change and result are often unexpected



The screenshot shows the University of Liverpool Staff Intranet page. The header includes the University of Liverpool logo and navigation tabs for 'Tools and services', 'Workplace and community', 'Our University', 'Research', and 'Student Experience'. The 'Research' tab is active, showing sub-sections like 'Research, Partnerships and Innovation', 'Enterprise', 'Research and Impact Strategy', and 'Research Funding and Outputs Hub'. The main content area is titled 'Your outputs strategy' and includes a paragraph explaining the importance of output planning, a 5-step process diagram, and a section on maximizing readership while upholding research excellence and integrity.

University of Liverpool

Staff Intranet

Tools and services Workplace and community **Our University** Research Student Experience

Research, Partnerships and Innovation Enterprise Research and Impact Strategy Research Funding and Outputs Hub Research Excellence Framework 2029

University home > Staff Intranet > Research > Research Funding and Outputs Hub > Outputs Development Hub > Your outputs strategy

Your outputs strategy

Knowing how to divvy up your research into different outputs to maximise its integrity and prioritising career growth – is extremely tricky. Here, we provide your research output strategy for academic publishing. Please note that it is diversity of output types, not just journal articles and books.

5 steps to creating your outputs strategy

- 1 Identify the Narrative
- 2 Ask Key Questions
- 3 Create a Timeline
- 4 Identify Publishers/ Journals
- 5 Rank and Decide

Maximise the output's readership whilst upholding research excellence and integrity

It is important to have open conversations with your colleagues, collaborators and all those involved in your research projects. Often, colleagues at different career stages may have different timelines and incentives when it comes to outputs strategy e.g. need a paper published quickly for employment or grant application deadlines.

<https://staff.liverpool.ac.uk/research/research-funding-and-outputs-hub/outputs/output-strategy/>

RESEARCH OUTPUTS & PUBLICATION STRATEGIES

STRATEGIES FOR OUTPUTS



<https://staff.liverpool.ac.uk/research/research-funding-and-outputs-hub/outputs/output-strategy/>

RESEARCH OUTPUTS & PUBLICATION STRATEGIES

1. IDENTIFY YOUR NARRATIVE(S)

- Sit with your team and map out the full breadth of your research
- Pull out a list of the **findings** and **conclusions**
- Identify which parts make up a '**complete story**' and the 'offcuts'
- **Slice up** your research data appropriately
- Build your data into **narratives**
- Quality > quantity
- Revisit these narratives



RESEARCH OUTPUTS & PUBLICATION STRATEGIES

1. IDENTIFY YOUR NARRATIVE(S)

- Are there leftover data ('offcuts')?
- Are there parts of the complete story that can also stand on their own?
- For example, a protocol or methodology could be published alone without compromising the 'complete story'
- Be **strategic**



RESEARCH OUTPUTS & PUBLICATION STRATEGIES

2. ASK KEY QUESTIONS

- Who are your **target audience(s)**
- Consider diverse output types (DOTs), e.g. datasets, external reports, exhibitions, software, etc..
- What research outputs **format** is best suited to maximise readership?
- Who are my **co-authors** and collaborators?
- How does your research meet the three criteria: **novelty, generality and validity?**

RESEARCH OUTPUTS & PUBLICATION STRATEGIES

2. ASK KEY QUESTIONS

- **Novelty (originality)**
 - Advances understanding or answers a key question.
 - Unexpected or field-shifting findings.
 - Potential to influence future research, policy, or practice.
- **Generality (significance)**
 - Relevance beyond a narrow discipline.
 - Replicated or applicable in real-world contexts.
- **Validity (rigour)**
 - Claims grounded in prior literature.
 - Sound design, analysis, and controls.
 - Transparent, reproducible methods and open data.

These will guide
your ambition
and strategy

RESEARCH OUTPUTS & PUBLICATION STRATEGIES

2. ASK KEY QUESTIONS

- Have you considered diverse output types (DOTs)?
- Research outputs beyond journal articles and books

A – Authored book

B – Edited book

C – Chapter in book

D – Journal article

E – Conference contribution

F – Patent/published patent application

G – Software

H – Website content

I – Performance

J – Composition

K – Design

L – Artefact

M – Exhibition

N – Research report for external body

O – Confidential report for external body

P – Devices and products

Q – Digital or visual media

R – Scholarly edition

S – Research data sets and databases

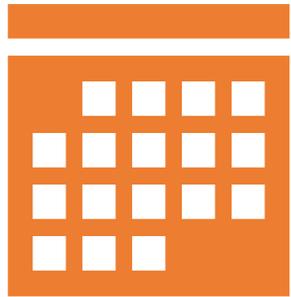
T – Other

U – Working paper

V – Translation

RESEARCH OUTPUTS & PUBLICATION STRATEGIES

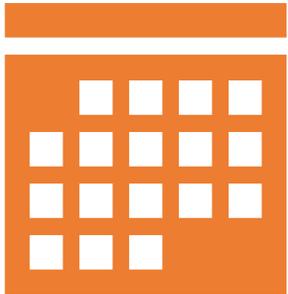
3. CREATE A TIMELINE



- Plan **when and what** to publish
- This timeline should be created with all members of the research team (including PGRs and post docs)
- Discuss with collaborators (where appropriate)
- Strategise to **maximise visibility, readership and impact**

RESEARCH OUTPUTS & PUBLICATION STRATEGIES

3. CREATE A TIMELINE



- Consider:
 - Deadlines, conferences, and research milestones (funding, recruitment, PDR, jobs)
 - Urgency? Consider **DOTs and preprints**
 - Turnaround times of publishers
 - World events and holidays
 - **Writing retreats**

RESEARCH OUTPUTS & PUBLICATION STRATEGIES

4. IDENTIFY HOSTS/JOURNALS/PUBLISHERS

- Aim: choosing the host who will help you **maximise your readership** and impact
- Be **ambitious** (and realistic)
- Considerations about **your research**:
 - The stories' **completeness**
 - The **impact and novelty** of the findings
 - Who is your **audience** – field specific or of interest to a wider audience?
 - The **quality** of your research

JOURNAL SELECTION MATRIX

Please note, the University of Liverpool does not endorse specific journals and will never base assessment on the chosen path of publication, in accordance with DORA (<https://sf.dora.org/>)

Specificity of research	Novelty	Significance/Impact	Generalisability	Story completedness	Quality	Journal selection	
						Outcome	Explanation
Sub-discipline specific	\	Smaller/less-competitive, sub-discipline-specific journal	Intermediate editorial bar; very specific readership.
	\	\	.	\	\	Well respected, sub-discipline-specific journal	High editorial bar; somewhat competitive journal selection; very specific readership.
	x	\	.	\	x	High profile, sub-discipline-specific journal	Very high editorial bar; competitive article selection process; very specific readership.
Discipline specific	.	.	\	.	\	Smaller, sub-discipline-specific journal	Low editorial bar; subject-specific readership.
	\	\	\	\	x	Less competitive, discipline-specific journal	Intermediate editorial bar; subject-specific readership.
	x	\	\	x	x	Well respected, discipline-specific journal	High editorial bar; competitive article selection process; subject-specific readership; full story completedness required.
	x	x	\	x	x	High profile, discipline-specific journal	Very high editorial bar; competitive article selection process; subject-specific readership; full story completedness required.
Interdisciplinary	.	.	x	.	\	Small, interdisciplinary journal	Low editorial bar; wide target audience.
	\	\	x	\	x	Less competitive, interdisciplinary journal	Intermediate editorial bar; wide target audience.
	x	\	x	x	x	Well respected, interdisciplinary journal	High editorial bar; competitive article selection process; broad academic readership; full story completedness required.
	x	x	x	x	x	High profile, interdisciplinary journal	Very high editorial bar; competitive article selection process; broad academic readership; highly impactful to wide audience; full story completedness required.

Identifier	Explanation
.	Does not satisfy criteria
\	Somewhat satisfies criteria
x	Definitely satisfies criteria

RESEARCH OUTPUTS & PUBLICATION STRATEGIES

4. IDENTIFY HOSTS/JOURNALS/PUBLISHERS

Practical considerations:

- Journal/publisher scope
- Peer review process and reputation
- Turnaround times of publishers
- Open Access policies
- Fees and costs
- Responsible metrics
- Competitiveness
- Communications capacity
- Avoid **predatory journals**
- Check the universities transformative agreements

Use tools like:

Think. Check. Submit.



RESEARCH OUTPUTS & PUBLICATION STRATEGIES

4. IDENTIFY HOSTS/JOURNALS/PUBLISHERS

How to identify **predatory journals**:

- Unsolicited invitations to publish or join the editorial board.
- Unrealistic promises – e.g. “guaranteed acceptance” or “rapid publication in days.”
- No rigorous peer review or vague description of the review process.
- Journal scope is overly broad or unrelated to your field.
- Hidden or excessive fees not clearly stated upfront.
- Poor website quality – spelling errors, broken links, fake metrics, no guidance for authors/reviewers

Use tools like:

Think. Check. Submit.



RESEARCH OUTPUTS & PUBLICATION STRATEGIES

4. IDENTIFY HOSTS/JOURNALS/PUBLISHERS

Why is this an important decision?

- Choice significantly effects how you write and format your manuscript
- Impact on timelines and deadlines
- Can play a role in the readership and impact of your paper
- May affect reputation if a predatory journal is selected
- Article processing charges (APCs) can be significant

Use tools like:

Think. Check. Submit.



RESEARCH OUTPUTS & PUBLICATION STRATEGIES

5. RANK AND DECIDE



- Discuss choices with peers/supervisors
- Rank host choice
- Align with plan/timelines
- Be **ambitious** – what's the worst that can happen?
- Aim for the **widest relevant readership**

RESEARCH OUTPUTS & PUBLICATION STRATEGIES

STRATEGIES FOR OUTPUTS

- **Self-reflection** is important
- Focus on overarching aims:
 - Advance knowledge
 - Maximise readership
 - Reach the right audiences
 - Maximise impact
 - Advance your career

March 2025 Outputs Development Team

Research Outputs Self-Reflection

Purpose of this Document

This guidance is designed to support research staff to reflect on their research outputs and to develop an ambitious, well-rounded, and strategic plan for future outputs. This document should be used in conjunction with the [Research and Impact Contributions Framework](#). **All questions in this guide are suggestions and should be adjusted to suit each scenario.**

Please note that this document has been designed by the Outputs Development Team for self-reflection based on conversations with researchers and is not approved by University of Liverpool HR document to be used in assessment.

Nonetheless, we want to mention that the University of Liverpool is a signatory to the [San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment \(DORA\)](#). Therefore, any formal internal assessment will **not** be based on article-related metrics (e.g. number of citations) or choice of journal as individual or surrogate measures of research quality. Read more about DORA and the responsible metrics policy [here](#).

We hope the below questions will help researchers identify opportunities and align with their career aspirations. The guidance encourages staff to:

- **Plan strategically:** Consider outputs early in the research process, aligning them with career goals, group priorities, and various deadlines.
- **Support:** Identify where researchers can be better supported in the development of their outputs
- **Enhance ambition:** Aim for high-quality, impactful outputs, exploring diverse forms of dissemination.
- **Diversify outputs:** Explore non-traditional forms of outputs alongside traditional ones to maximise the reach and impact of research.

Outputs are defined according to [this page](#). For more information visit the [Outputs Development Hub](#).

https://staff.liverpool.ac.uk/media/livacuk/research-hub/outputshub/Self-reflection,guidance_research,outputs.pdf

RESEARCH OUTPUTS & PUBLICATION STRATEGIES

NEXT STEPS



Staff Intranet

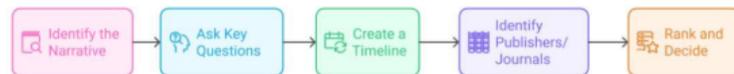
Tools and services Workplace and community Our University Research Student Experience
Research, Partnerships and Innovation Enterprise Research and Impact Strategy Research a
Research Funding and Outputs Hub Research Excellence Framework 2029

University home > Staff Intranet > Research > Research Funding and Outputs Hub > Outputs Development Hub > Your o

Your outputs strategy

Knowing how to divvy up your research into different outputs to maximise its integrity and prioritising career growth – is extremely tricky. Here, we provide your research output strategy for academic publishing. Please note that it is a diversity of output types, not just journal articles and books.

5 steps to creating your outputs strategy



Maximise the output's readership whilst upholding research excellence and integrity

It is important to have open conversations with your colleagues, collaborators and all those involved in your research projects. Often, colleagues at different career stages may have different timelines and incentives when it comes to outputs strategy e.g. need a paper published quickly for employment or grant application deadlines.

- Explore the outputs hub **intranet** pages
- Think about **sharing and dissemination**
- Explore **Nature Masterclasses**
- Think about how to get involved in **peer review**
- **Talk** to peers and your supervisor
- **Attend** more Fellowship development sessions
- **Let us know** – what would be helpful to develop your output strategies?

<https://staff.liverpool.ac.uk/research/research-funding-and-outputs-hub/outputs/output-strategy/>

nature masterclasses



The University of Liverpool is now
subscribed to **Nature Masterclasses**

On-demand resources for:

- **Research design**
- **Writing and Publishing**
- **Grant-writing**
- **Career development and collaboration**

Find out more



[https://libguides.liverpool.ac.uk/
nature_masterclasses](https://libguides.liverpool.ac.uk/nature_masterclasses)

Visit the **Outputs Development Hub** for more resources
or email outputs@liverpool.ac.uk

THE ORIGINAL

REDBRICK

RESEARCH OUTPUTS & PUBLICATION STRATEGIES

NATURE MASTERCLASSES



Narrative Tools for Researchers

Examine the best ways you can share your research story persuasively with your peers



Choosing the Best Journal for Your Paper

Navigate the decisions and considerations to choose the right journal for your work – **Focused course**



Maximising the Impact of Your Paper

Effectively promote your paper and measure and track its impact
– **Short course**

RESEARCH OUTPUTS & PUBLICATION STRATEGIES

CLOSING THOUGHTS

- There are many potential research outputs
- Are you **making the most** out of your research?
- Are you making the most out of your **research team?**
- Finding the best mode of dissemination to reach your **target audience(s)**
- To **maximise readership, impact and recognition**

Research Outputs & Publication Strategies

5 min Q&A

Dr Natalie Wallis – Outputs Development Manager

Open Access and Outputs Strategy

Martin Wolf – Head of Open Research

OPEN ACCESS AND OUTPUTS STRATEGY

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY OPEN ACCESS

- Academic content that is available on an OA basis is free in two separate, distinct ways:
 - *Free as in “free to read”* – if a journal article, report, monograph, book chapter, and so on is OA, then it is free to read with no further costs beyond internet access
 - *Free as in “free to re-use”* – OA material has looser re-use restrictions than legacy-published content
- A key point to remember, then – OA isn't *just* free to read

OPEN ACCESS AND OUTPUTS STRATEGY

AWARENESS OF ROUTES TO OA

- There are various ways to make work openly accessible:
 - Version of Record through a journal in a Read and Publish Agreement
 - Version of Record through a fully Open Access journal
 - Author Accepted Manuscript through the University Repository
- We'll look at each in turn on the next slides.

OPEN ACCESS AND OUTPUTS STRATEGY

READ AND PUBLISH AGREEMENTS

- In these journal subscription agreements, the Library has paid upfront to cover both:
 - Giving you read access to paywalled content
 - Making articles with Liverpool corresponding authors available on an OA basis
- More than 10,000 journals are covered by these agreements
- Use the [Database of Read and Publish titles](#) to see if the journal you're interested in is covered
- Note that journals can drop into and out of agreements, and national negotiations are ongoing

OPEN ACCESS AND OUTPUTS STRATEGY

FULLY OA JOURNALS

- These are journals where all contents are openly accessible
- Usually (though not always) require payment of a fee upon acceptance
- Funding is available but not unlimited – see later slides
- You can search the [Directory of Open Access Journals](#) to see if the journal you're interested in is fully OA
- Most important note – if submitting to a fully OA journal, you **MUST** complete a [request form](#) **BEFORE** submission

OPEN ACCESS AND OUTPUTS STRATEGY

GREEN OPEN ACCESS

- Making your Author Accepted Manuscript (AAM) available through the [University Repository](#)
- This is your finished version, incorporating changes after peer review, but not featuring publisher typesetting or branding
- Our [Research Publications and Copyright Policy](#) gives you the right to make this version available upon publication of the Version of Record
- Encourage co-writers at other institutions to make this available on *their* repositories as well – greater availability of Green OA versions is linked to greater citation impact

OPEN ACCESS AND OUTPUTS STRATEGY

WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

- Citation impact – open availability is linked with higher citations, particularly when combined (e.g. R&P *and* Green repository OA)
- Public impact – especially important for publicly-funded research outputs to be available to the public that funded them
- University mission – to give our research the best possible chance to be of wider impact
- Funder requirements – many funders require outputs associated with their funded project to be openly accessible
- REF requirements – journal articles and conference proceeding *have* to be openly accessible to be eligible for submission to REF

OPEN ACCESS AND OUTPUTS STRATEGY

HOW TO MAKE YOUR WORK OA – JOURNAL ARTICLES

- Check if your target journal is covered by a Read and Publish Agreement
 - If yes, submit; if no –
- Check if your target journal is in the DOAJ
 - If yes, complete a request form; if no –
- If your target journal offers no form of immediate-on-publication OA, deposit your AAM to the Repository by uploading via [Elements](#)
- As stated, it's to your citation benefit to deposit a version to the Repository regardless of whether the Version of Record is openly accessible

OPEN ACCESS AND OUTPUTS STRATEGY

HOW TO MAKE YOUR WORK OA – OTHER OUTPUTS

Books and book chapters:

- If strongly associated with UKRI funding, we can pay for OA (up to £12,000 only)
- Otherwise, check what is allowed re: Green OA

Other types where the Repository is first place of publication:

- If you have the rights to make it OA, deposit it
- You can request a Digital Object Identifier (DOI) – this done at the point of creating a record for an item

OPEN ACCESS AND OUTPUTS STRATEGY

REF REQUIREMENTS

This is where it gets technical 😊

- There are separate *deposit* requirements (when the item must be in the Repository) and *access* requirements (when the item must be openly accessible)
- The requirements are also different depending on *when* something was published
- The following table goes into detail, and can be found on the [REF and Open Research](#) web page

OPEN ACCESS AND OUTPUTS STRATEGY

REF REQUIREMENTS

Publication date < 1st January 2026

An allowable embargo on open access of up to **12 months** for main panels [A](#) and [B](#), and up to **24 months** for main panels [C](#) and [D](#).

If using the green route to OA, the paper must be deposited within **3 months of acceptance**.

Important – “depositing” and “making open access” are two different things – the Repository won’t make items available until after publication.

Publication date > 1st January 2026

An allowable embargo on open access of up to **6 months** for main panels [A](#) and [B](#), and up to **12 months** for main panels [C](#) and [D](#).

If using the green route to OA, the paper must be deposited within **3 months of publication**.

Greater encouragement of (but no requirement for) less restrictive licencing (preference is CC-BY).

OPEN ACCESS AND OUTPUTS STRATEGY

REF REQUIREMENTS

The key message re: OA and the REF:

- As long as you always deposit your Author Accepted manuscript via Elements as soon as possible, you'll be meeting REF requirements
- Do this one thing and you needn't worry about the fine details shown on the previous slide

OPEN ACCESS AND OUTPUTS STRATEGY

ELEMENTS AND THE OEP

- The **only** reason to deposit a file alongside a record in the Elements Outputs module is to have it publicly available via the University Repository
- Do **not** deposit a file as a way of making it available to OEP reviewers unless it is something we can make openly available

OPEN ACCESS AND OUTPUTS STRATEGY

TAKE HOME MESSAGES

- For journal articles – wherever they're published, ensure you upload a copy to the Repository via Elements
- For other output types – open accessibility will often rest on whether the Repository is the place of publication
- Follow the guidance on our [How to make your work open access page](#)
- Open Access brings multiple benefits, and is often a funder requirement

Open Access and Outputs Strategy

5 min Q&A

Martin Wolf – Head of Open Research

The REF and 3*/4* Outputs

Bob Cooney – Research and Impact Strategy Manager

REF2029: WHAT IS IT? WHY DO WE DO IT?

- The Research Excellence Framework (REF) is the system for assessing the quality of research in UK Higher Education Institutions
- REF is used...
- to inform the allocation of 'block' funding for research
- to provide accountability for public investment in research and produce evidence of the benefits of this investment
- to provide benchmarking information and establish reputational yardsticks, for use in the higher education sector and for public information.

REF2029: WHAT IS IT? WHY DO WE DO IT?

- What does it measure?
- Outputs: academic publications and other forms of dissemination
- Impact: relevance of research to societal benefit
- Environment: inc. - our people; how well we train the next generation of researchers; our approach to open research; our 'added value'

REF2029: WHAT IS IT? WHY DO WE DO IT?

- REF is (very basically) a comprehensive peer review of research over a fixed period, with resultant funding (known as Quality-Related or QR) allocated by formula using the outcomes of quality rating and volume
- REF determines our long-term 'block grant' funding – meaning that participation has financial rewards / consequences. Allows long-term strategic planning and investment
- REF also determines, to a large degree, the reputation of our research groups. A poor REF outcome can have consequences for future research activity....and morale
- REF is not a 'remote' process for either researchers or professional services – it requires engagement and management from the moment the last REF finishes through the next submission deadline

WHERE WE ARE

UoL Rank in SECTOR	Measure – 4*%	2014	2021	Difference
UoL Rank in SECTOR	Overall	48 th	33 rd	+15 
	Impact	58 th	28 th	+30 
	Outputs	46 th	35 th	+11 
	Environment	48 th	42 nd	+6 
UoL Rank in RG	Overall	23 rd	22 nd	+1 
	Impact	22 nd	15 th	+7 
	Outputs	22 nd	20 th	+2 
	Environment	23 rd	22 nd	+1 

REF 2029 AIMS TO...

- Move away from assessing individuals and towards assessing **institutions, disciplinary groupings and teams**
- Encourage **broader contributions** to research and research processes
- Greater focus on research **culture and environment**

REF 2029 – KNOWN AND UNKNOWN

What we know so far

- **REF Volume Measure** – taken directly from HESA Staff Return and based FTE data for 25/26 and 26/27
- **Outputs:** units no longer required to attribute outputs to individuals – so no minima and maxima per staff member – but each unit will need to justify strategy / selection of outputs.

What we don't know

- **PCE** – scope and precise indicators
- **Final exercise framework** - further announcements December 2025

REF 2029 - OUR APPROACH

- a) Improving performance on Outputs across all units (2021 - 35th in sector)
- b) Having clear improvement focus specific to each unit
- c) Maximise performance in all of our units – and especially our largest units

REBALANCING RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

People, culture and environment

- Institution-level and disciplinary-level evidence statements

25%

Contribution to knowledge and understanding

- Research outputs (2.5x volume)
- Disciplinary-level evidence statement

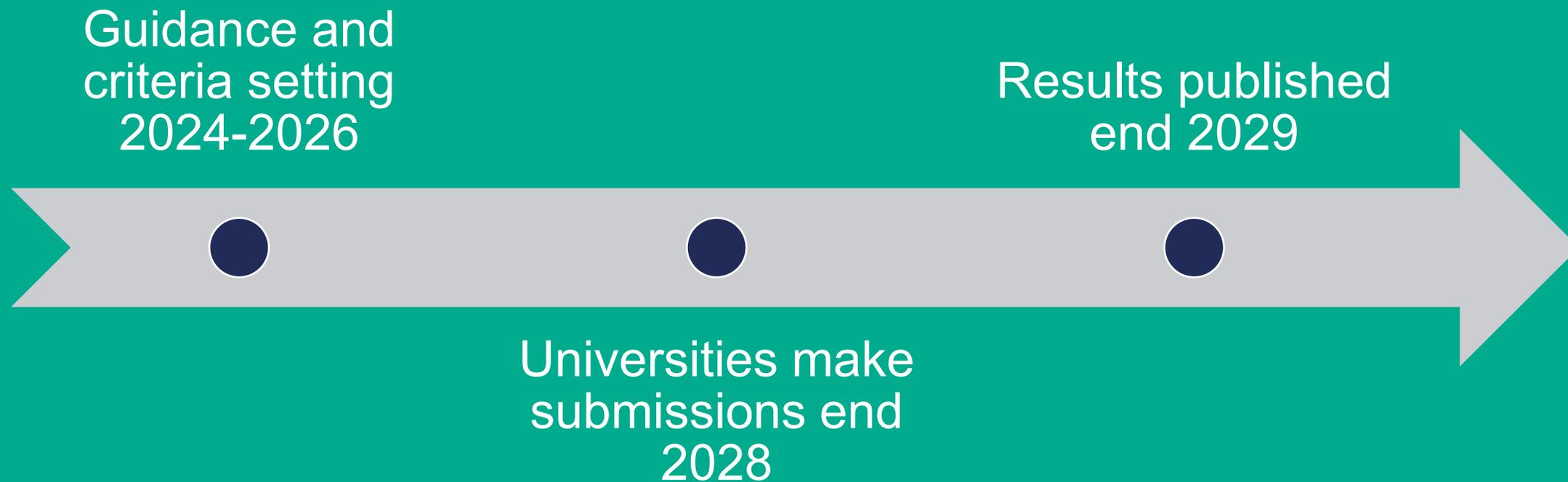
50%

Engagement and impact

- Impact case studies
- Disciplinary-level evidence statement

25%

THE NEXT REF WILL CONCLUDE IN 2029



UOL ACTIVITY

- Key Agreements – REF Board / SLT / RIC / Senate
- High-level Timetable
- REF Governance
- REF Output Evaluation Code of Practice
- REF Panel Member support

UOL ACTIVITY – OUTPUT EVALUATION

- Post RISE Senate agreements – new Output Evaluation Programme:
 - Output evaluation for REF purposes only
 - Maximise quality of submission
 - Reduce admin burden on output evaluation
 - Focus on fairness and transparency – calibration, EDI
- Replaces policy principles:
 - New Contributions Framework
 - No requirement for one 3* output every ~18 months

APPROACH TO GROWING OUTPUT QUALITY

Unit level practice –exemplars e.g.

'My next best paper' workshops / 'Raising the Level' sessions / 'Comments for Cake'
PDR and research discussions on output progress; publication mentoring

New resources in [Research and Outputs Development Hub](#) plus workshops and clinics including:

- Publishing strategies – planning the how, when and where (links to Top 100 target)
- UoA workshops and calibration exercises e.g. difference between 3*-4* outputs
- Support for Diverse Output Types (DOTs), including a new DOT Advisory Group
- Support on 300 word statements for long form publications and 100 word statements on significance of the output

Output Evaluation Programme – selection of outputs for REF submission; linking pre-publication advice and guidance to improvements in output quality

EXAMPLES OF REF INVOLVEMENT - OUTPUTS

- Outputs – vast range of eligibility
- An underpinning principle of the REF is that **all forms of research output will be assessed on a fair and equal basis**
- A key finding of REF exercises is that **world leading research is found across all output types**
- **Outputs:** The sub-panels will assess the quality of submitted research outputs in terms of their **'originality, significance and rigour'**

EXAMPLES OF REF INVOLVEMENT - OUTPUTS

- An underpinning principle of the REF is that for each discipline **all types of research and all forms of research output** shall be assessed on a **fair and equal basis**. Panels have been instructed to define criteria and adopt assessment processes that enable them to **recognise, and treat on an equal footing, excellence in research across the spectrum of applied, practice, basic and strategic research, wherever that research is conducted**; and for **identifying excellence in different forms of research endeavour** including interdisciplinary and collaborative research, while **attaching no greater weight to one form over another**.

EXAMPLES OF REF INVOLVEMENT - OUTPUTS

The criteria for assessing the quality of outputs are 'originality, significance and rigour'

Four star	Quality that is world-leading in terms of originality, significance and rigour.
Three star	Quality that is internationally excellent in terms of originality, significance and rigour but which falls short of the highest standards of excellence.
Two star	Quality that is recognised internationally in terms of originality, significance and rigour.
One star	Quality that is recognised nationally in terms of originality, significance and rigour.
Unclassified	Quality that falls below the standard of nationally recognised work. Or work which does not meet the published definition of research for the purposes of the assessment.

EXAMPLES OF REF INVOLVEMENT - OUTPUTS

Notes on the criteria and definitions of the starred levels

- ‘World-leading’ quality denotes an absolute standard of quality in each unit of assessment.
- ‘World-leading’, ‘internationally’ and ‘nationally’ in this context refer to quality standards. They do not refer to the nature or geographical scope of particular subjects, nor to the locus of research nor its place of dissemination. For example, research which is focused within one part of the UK might be of ‘world-leading’ standard. Equally, work with an international focus might not be of ‘world-leading, internationally excellent or internationally recognised’ standard.

EXAMPLES OF REF INVOLVEMENT - OUTPUTS

REF Initial Decisions - diversity of outputs = dissemination to diverse audiences

- How the outputs submitted are representative of the research and researchers in that area
- Showcase 'risky' outputs e.g. policy reports or patents and recognise enabling research - review articles (including systematic reviews), replication studies, datasets, software, translations and critical editions
- Reaching businesses, policymakers and citizens - different formats e.g. policy summaries, video or audio content
- Captured in Liverpool Elements

REF2029 AND PGR

- Outputs which are sole-authored by PGR students, including PhD theses, will not be eligible for submission
- HEIs may not submit any output produced by a research student supervised by a Category A eligible staff member employed in the unit, unless the staff member co-authored or co-produced the output

OUTPUTS

MODULE

- All outputs in one place
- Authors can add them manually...
- Or the system can fetch them automatically!

Add a new publication

Automatic claiming

i Please tell us about the identifiers that are used to identify you in external data sources.
The more you can tell us, the less often you will be asked to verify which items are yours.

Mine (1) Not Mine (0) Ignored (0)

Add external profiles

+ arXiv Author Identifier ORCID ResearcherID Scopus ID SSRN Author ID

Add email addresses

+ Email address

Email addresses

Items associated with the following email addresses will be automatically claimed for you:

Anna.Tagliapietra@liverpool.ac.uk Manage

CANCEL

OUTPUTS

MODULE

Some of the features:

- Easily see an output's repository status and deposit publications
- REF Open Access compliance
- Filters to search through your outputs
- Set privacy levels for your output records
- Link your outputs to other records
- Outputs in Elements are fed through to other institutional systems

OUTPUTS

MODULE

An example of selected outputs in Elements appearing on the web profile.

About **Research** **Publications** **Teaching** **Professional Activities**

Publications

Filter the publication list

Begin typing to filter the publication list [Filter list by type](#)

2023

Intravenous immunoglobulin treatment in childhood encephalitis (IgNiTE): a randomised controlled trial. (Journal article)

Hill, M., Iro, M., Sadarangani, M., Absoud, M., Cantrell, L., Chong, K., ... IgNiTE study team. (2023). Intravenous immunoglobulin treatment in childhood encephalitis (IgNiTE): a randomised controlled trial. *BMJ open*, 13(11), e072134. doi:10.1136/bmjopen-2023-072134
DOI: 10.1136/bmjopen-2023-072134

Pre-existing neurological conditions and COVID-19 co-infection: Data from systematic reviews, meta-analyses, and scoping reviews (Journal article)

Boruah, A. P., Thakur, K. T., Gadani, S. P., Kothari, K. U., Chomba, M., Guekht, A., ... Schiess, N. (2023). Pre-existing neurological conditions and COVID-19 co-infection: Data from systematic reviews, meta-analyses, and scoping reviews. *Journal of the Neurological Sciences*, 455, 120858. doi:10.1016/j.jns.2023.120858
DOI: 10.1016/j.jns.2023.120858

Quantifying neutralising antibody responses against SARS-CoV-2 in dried blood spots (DBS) and paired sera. (Journal article)

Roper, K. J., Thomas, J., Albalawi, W., Maddocks, E., Dobson, S., Alshehri, A., ... Pollakis, G. (2023). Quantifying neutralising antibody responses against SARS-CoV-2 in dried blood spots (DBS) and paired sera. *Scientific reports*, 13(1), 15014. doi:10.1038/s41598-023-41928-2
DOI: 10.1038/s41598-023-41928-2

Association of Country Income Level With the Characteristics and Outcomes of Critically Ill Patients Hospitalized With Acute Kidney Injury and COVID-19 (Journal article)

Wainstein, M., Spyrison, N., Dai, D., Ghadimi, M., Chávez-Iñiguez, J. S., Rizo-Topete, L., ... Zucman, D. (2023). Association of Country Income Level With the Characteristics and Outcomes of Critically Ill Patients Hospitalized With Acute Kidney Injury and COVID-19. *Kidney International Reports*, 8(8), 1514-1530. doi:10.1016/j.ekir.2023.05.015
DOI: 10.1016/j.ekir.2023.05.015

REMINDER OF IMPORTANCE

- Reputation – validation; attracting the best staff and students
- Feeds into League Table positions
- Key role in achieving Liverpool 2031
- Informs Quality-Related funding for 7 years; mainstream allocation to UoL in 2023/24 = £27m

SCALE OF PREPARATIONS

- 22 Units of Assessment
- ~1,413 T&R FTE + Staff with significant responsibility for research
- 3,534+ Outputs (+ possible 22 explanatory statements)
- ~93 Impact Case Studies
- 22 possible UoA Engagement & Impact narratives
- 22 UoA PCE Statements and Metrics
- 1 Institutional PCE Statement and Metrics
- A lot of thank you emails

The REF and 3*/4* Outputs

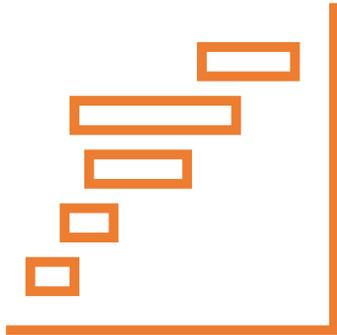
5 min Q&A

Bob Cooney – Research and Impact Strategy Manager

Closing Thoughts and Discussion

RESEARCH OUTPUTS & PUBLICATION STRATEGIES

NEXT STEPS



- Explore the outputs hub intranet pages
- Explore the library resources
- Explore the REF 2029 intranet
- Explore Nature Masterclasses
- **Talk** to peers and your supervisor
- **Look** for opportunities to get involved in peer review and REF
- Consider your **open access** options
- **Attend** more Fellowship development sessions

RESEARCH OUTPUTS STRATEGIES

DISCUSSION

Write down 2-3 research outputs you will aim to publish in the next year.

Have you submitted your highest quality outputs to the OEP?

Have you considered your wider research group in your plans?

Identify one thing you will improve going forward

Have you published your work green open access?

What's the biggest barrier currently in your way regarding outputs?

Thank you for listening

We are the projects
that make headlines
And people that
make history

We are the original redbrick

Contact

outputs@liverpool.ac.uk

REF2029@liverpool.ac.uk

openaccess@liverpool.ac.uk