



CAPTURING IMPACT OF RESEARCH

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What is impact?

Impact is defined as '*a demonstrable effect, change or benefit beyond academia*'. It includes, *but is not exclusive to*, influences on, or changes to:

- Policy
- People/capacity-building
- The economy
- Professional practice
- Culture
- Society, health and well-being
- Industry/business
- The environment



Key points about impact

- is academic endeavour *beyond* the traditional research outputs
- is evidence (demonstrable) of robust engagement with users → **STRESS!**
- Impact worth 20% in REF 2014; expected to increase in future REFs
- academics don't do impact, they do activities
(that may be impactful – hopefully)



Key points about impact

- is not linear, it is a process
- there is no end-point
- it is not off-the-shelf, you have to find it sometimes...
- every repository's nightmare



Key points about impact

- it is personal, but it is also a team effort
- sometimes comes from academic events...
- it is not new but we've forgotten this
- is now part of your personal academic development in most organisations...



Government and funding organisations generally expect researchers to be aware of the potential difference their research could make, and to be able to articulate the means by which impacts could be generated.

Currently, impact is defined as '*a demonstrable effect, change or benefit, beyond academia*'. It includes, *but is not exclusive to*, influences on, or changes to:

- ✓ Policy
- ✓ People/capacity-building
- ✓ The economy
- ✓ Professional practice
- ✓ Culture
- ✓ Society, health and well-being
- ✓ Industry/business
- ✓ The environment

This is the definition you should principally keep in mind, but you should also remember that impact can take place *within* academia (for example through teaching, building curricula, mentoring). This kind of impact is often a precursor to impact beyond academia, and documenting it is just as important as the recording of impacts in the wider world.

Impact can stem from publications, conferences and traditional dissemination as well as from Knowledge Exchange (KE), the transfer of knowledge, expertise and skilled people between the research environment and user communities, including the general public. Think about the conversations that could lead to collaboration, effective KE, influencing a process. Think about tracking where your research may have been used to influence or creating a change and where it could go in future.



How do I plan for it?

Use the following questions as a guide to formulating your Personal Impact Plan, a personal, iterative document which you should revisit as and when required: as your project(s) are developing.

What is the ultimate objective of your research?

Go on, be honest, why do you do what you do? This can be as big as it possibly can. Think about what is known or is happening currently – or not known or happening – that your research could potentially change.

Who might benefit from or deliver the change?

For example, audiences, beneficiaries, stakeholders.

Would your research beneficiaries gain anything from talking to you or knowing about your work?

What do you want from the likely beneficiaries/intermediaries of your work?

For example, views, experiences, requirements, feedback.



How do I plan for it? (2)



How can you engage effectively with them? What language or channel is appropriate?

Such as collaboration, consultation, membership of expert panels, advisory roles, public talks, public engagement, festivals of science, policy events or briefings, media dissemination, strategic social media, business breakfasts, secondments, placements, training, patents, licensing, co-authorship, funding, Explorathon, European Researchers' Night, Glasgow Science Festival, exhibitions, co-production.



What will they potentially gain or miss out on through the engagement or not engaging?

Policy, capacity, economical, practice, culture, societal, health, well-being, environmental benefits or detriments.



How might you document any change or influence?

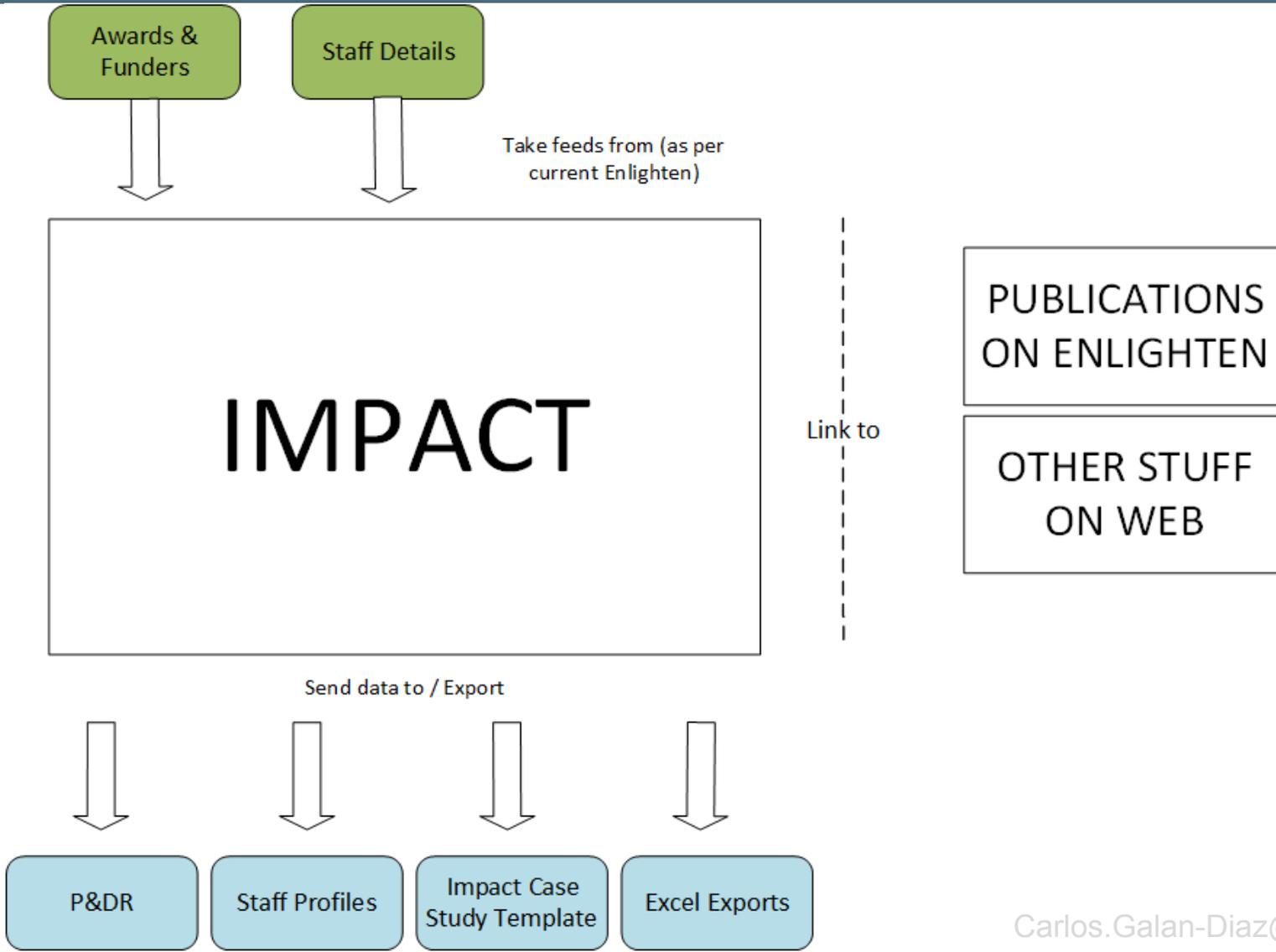
For example letters of support from external partners, minutes, meeting agendas, flyers, metrics of website /articles/ blog posts / tweets /social media, statements, feedback, endorsements, video/radio clips, press releases, acknowledgements, citations.



Please use the above questions to elaborate on your *academic* impact, if appropriate.



The system





Item Type ?

Article
An article in a journal, magazine, newspaper. Not necessarily peer-reviewed. May be an electronic-only medium, such as an online journal or news website.

Knowledge Exchange & Impact
Activity details and evidence records.

Book Section
A chapter or section in a book.

Book Review
A book review.

Monograph
A monograph. This may be a technical report, project report, documentation, manual, working paper or discussion paper.

Conference or Workshop Item
A paper, poster, speech, lecture or presentation given at a conference, workshop or other event. If the conference item has been published in a journal or book then please use "Book Section" or "Article" instead.

Book
A book or a conference volume.

Thesis
A thesis or dissertation.

Patent
A published patent. Do *not* include as yet unpublished patent applications.

Artefact
An artist's artefact or work product.

Show/Exhibition



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Edit item: Knowledge Exchange & Impact #245

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Item ?

Activity

Evidence

Description of Activity ?

Description of Evidence ?



Type					Edit item
Item Type: Knowledge Exchange & Impact					
Details					Edit item
Creators:	Creators	Email	GUID		
	Parr, H	UNSPECIFIED	UNSPECIFIED		
Official URL:	http://www.geographiesofmissingpeople.org.uk/				
Item:	Activity, Evidence				
Description of Activity:	An interview with people who had returned after going missing, which provided invaluable insight into their thoughts and motivations and what happened to them while they were absent, which powerfully convey the emotional and physical experience of being missing.				
Description of Evidence:	Media, presentation and publications, see http://www.geographiesofmissingpeople.org.uk/outputs/				
Internal Collaborators:	Department of Social Science				
External Collaborators:	Police Scotland, University of Dundee				
Engagement:	Engagement Activity	Nature of Engagement	Month	Year	
	Event with public	Concluded	Feb	2014	
	Event with practitioners	Concluded	Jun	2014	
Area of potential impact:	Health, wellbeing, welfare, Public policy, governance, services				
P&DR Link:	Yes				
Web Link:	Yes				
Unspecified fields:	Additional Information, Enter details if 'Other' selected, Enter details if 'Other' selected				
Evidence					Edit item
Unspecified fields: Documents					



THANK YOU

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