

### **DEST Definition of Research**

This definition is taken from the [Draft 2008 DEST HERDC Specifications for the Collection of 2007 Data](#).

Please refer to this document for full details of the DEST Research Publication Collection.

#### **1.3.9. Research**

For the purposes of these specifications, research comprises:

- creative work undertaken on a systematic basis in order to increase the stock of knowledge, including knowledge of man, culture and society, and the use of this stock of knowledge to devise new applications [OECD (2002), Frascati Manual: Proposed Standard Practice for Surveys on Research and Experimental Development, OECD: Paris].
- any activity classified as research which is characterised by originality; it should have investigation as a primary objective and should have the potential to produce results that are sufficiently general for humanity's stock of knowledge (theoretical and/or practical) to be recognisably increased. Most higher education research work would qualify as research.
- pure basic research, strategic basic research, applied research and experimental development.

Activities that do not support research must be excluded, such as:

- preparation for teaching
- scientific and technical information services
- general purpose or routine data collection
- standardisation and routine testing
- feasibility studies (except into research and experimental development projects)
- specialised routine medical care
- commercial, legal and administrative aspects of patenting, copyright or licensing activities
- routine computer programming, systems work or software maintenance (research and experimental development into applications software, new programming languages and new operating systems would normally meet the definition of research).

#### **1.3.11. Research Publications**

For the purposes of these specifications, research publications are books, book chapters, journal articles and/or conference publications which meet the definition of research (as defined in section 1.3.9 above) and are characterised by:

- substantial scholarly activity, as evidenced by discussion of the relevant literature, an awareness of the history and antecedents of work described, and provided in a format which allows a reader to trace sources of the work, including through citations and footnotes
- originality (i.e. not a compilation of existing works)
- veracity/validity through a peer validation process or by satisfying the commercial publisher processes
- increasing the stock of knowledge

being in a form that enables dissemination of knowledge.