

# Impact at the AHRC

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Images sourced from the AHRC's Image Gallery. Showcased here:  
(clockwise): Windows on War – *Russian studies and Drama*; British Library's Royal Manuscripts – *Digital Humanities*; Earthworks - *Archaeology and Cultural Geography*; 3D Ceramics printing – *Design*; King's Dome Commission – *Visual Arts*

# Why does the AHRC collect information on research outcomes and impact?

- Accountability and reporting requirements
- Champion arts and humanities research
- Increase funding for the arts and humanities research



# Championing the Arts and Humanities: In numbers

In 2015-16, the AHRC supported **796** new doctoral students

c. **31.5%** of the research-active community work in the arts and humanities

**80%** of arts and humanities doctoral students claim that their doctoral experience has contributed to one or more engagement activities, including releasing a creative output, informing public policy and launching a start-up business.

AHRC supports **50** (sub)disciplines

AHRC's CDTs and DTPs collectively involve **75** HEIs and over **150** non-academic partners

Academic/non-academic partners are based in **44** countries on **6** continents

Over a **third** of the AHRC's budget is invested into postgraduate training

**46%** of AHRC's portfolio supports collaborative research

Over **1100** partner organisations on 518 awards (since 2010/11)

# RCUK Definition of Impact

The Research Councils consider impact to be *the **demonstrable contribution that excellent research makes to academic advances, across and within disciplines, including significant advances in understanding, methods, theory and application..***

and

*the **demonstrable contribution that excellent research makes to society and the economy...Impact embraces all the extremely diverse ways in which research-related knowledge and skills benefit individuals, organisations and nations.***

# Championing the Arts and Humanities: Wider impact

*658 REF2014 Impact Case Studies* referenced the AHRC across the Main Panel D sub-panels and three of the Main Panel C sub-panels. Some of the areas of impact highlighted included:

Community cohesion and  
engagement

Creative and digital economies

Cultural tourism and regeneration

Influence on practice and practitioners

Informing and influencing policy and  
policymakers

*Areas of  
impact*

Heritage preservation and  
understanding

Creating and supporting business

Health and wellbeing

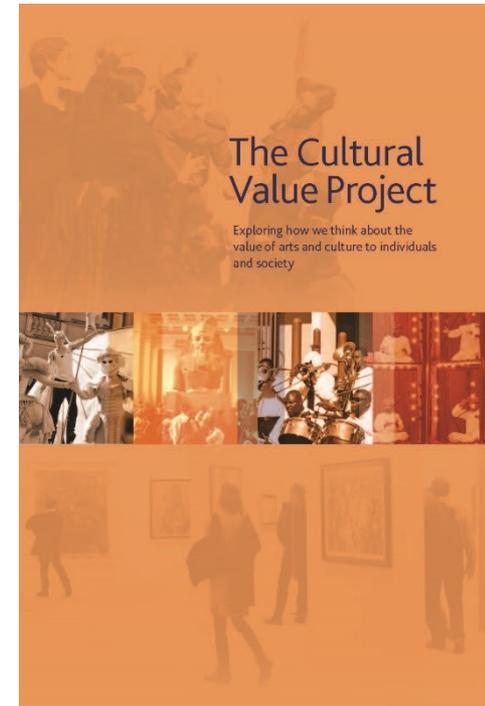
Stimulating public debate and changing  
perceptions

Designing innovative business and policy  
models

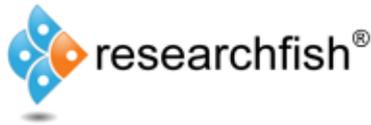
# AHRC approach to collecting and highlighting impact-related information

- **Updated website with features/case studies**
- **Impact Wiki** – internal impact information collection tool
- **Researchfish** – collecting and analysing research outcomes information
- **Annual Impact Report** – outlining the impact of individual awards and of the AHRC as a whole

- **Commissioning research/studies**  
Exploring more intangible aspects of impact measures e.g. Cultural Value project, projects within the cross-council Connected Communities programme  
Economic value studies e.g. PWC in 2009, Deloitte in 2015

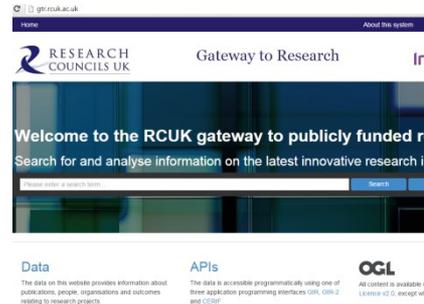


# Capturing/disseminating evidence of impact



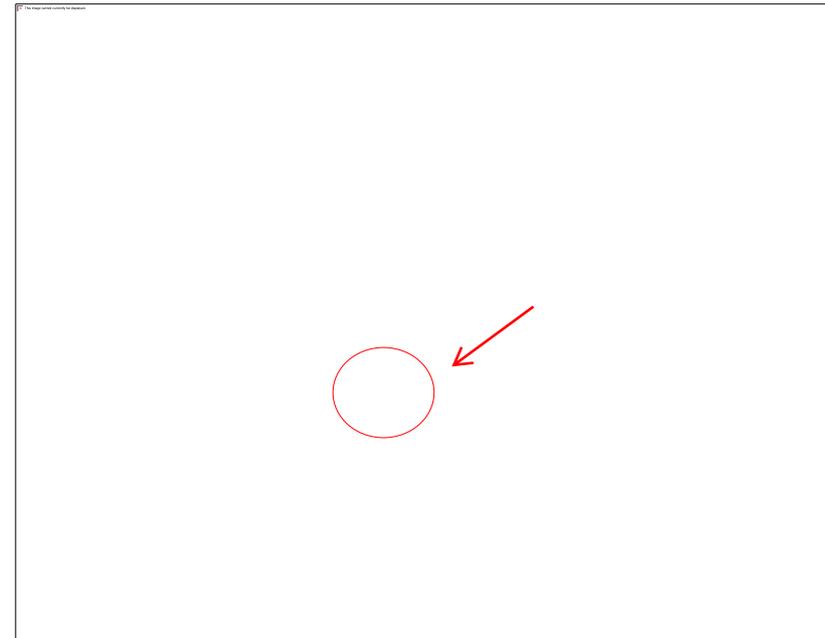
Researchfish is an online facility that enables research funders and Research Organisations to track the impacts of their investments, and researchers to log the outputs, outcomes and impacts of their work.

*Used now by all seven UK Research Councils*



Gateway to Research helps highlight research expertise and findings from across the seven Research Councils & Innovate UK (Technology Strategy Board) easily accessible to other organisations such as higher education institutes, charities, government, business, and other members of the public.

[www.gtr.rcuk.ac.uk](http://www.gtr.rcuk.ac.uk)



**Current submission period:  
6<sup>th</sup> February 2017 – 16<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

# Using Researchfish information

- Key findings
- Publications
- Research resources (e.g. databases, tools)
- Collaborations
- Further funding
- Non-print research outputs (e.g. software, exhibitions, films, performances)
- Next destinations
- Policy influence
- Spinouts/start-ups
- Dissemination activities
- Free-text section on impact



## Impact of the CDA scheme

### *The Charles Dickens Museum*

- Skills
- Impact on sector
- Impact on partner organisation
- Broader societal and economic impact

Catherine Malcolmson, AHRC Studentship:  
'The collaborative nature of the project has been a huge benefit to my studies. I have access to the Museum's wealth of archival material, much of which relates directly to my research interests, and having both an academic supervisor and a supervisor at the Museum has helpfully provided different perspectives on the work I've been doing.'

Director of the Charles Dickens Museum highlighted that the PI, in relation to the CDA provided **'exemplary models for forging partnership between academic and non-academic organisations.'**



Project student Catherine Malcolmson explored non-academic engagements with Dickens in the first decades of the twentieth century, including the foundation of the CDM, helping to establish the 'Friends' of the CDM in 2005, which now has over 500 members and has generated significant revenue for the Museum. **Together with Malcolmson** (the PI), she has organised public events for the Friends **and has been involved in planning and delivering the Museum's reopening, after its Heritage Lottery Fund redevelopment** (taken from REF case study).

# Evidence of the impact

## *Qualitative sources*

- An explanation of the impact of the collaborative doctoral studentship on her research and skill development
- The role of the CDA in strengthening this partnership with corroboration from the Charles Dickens Museum
- An explanation of her role in ‘planning and delivering the museum’s reopening’
- An explanation of the types of new audiences did the Cultural Engagement Fund help attract

## *Quantitative sources*

- Number of people who have visited the Charles Dickens Museum since it reopened – as an indicator of increased visitor numbers
- If applicable, ‘new audience’ numbers

# Thank you

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