

Subject: [Csprofs] CORE Presidents newsletter March-May 2014
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From: John Grundy (sent by Csprofs <csprofs-bounces@core.edu.au>)
To: CSHODS, CSPRofs, CSMembers

Dear Colleagues

I've been a bit slack in getting this update to you all. Sorry - been real real busy not only with CORE stuff but lots of other things.

An outline below of topics I am covering in this newsletter:

- Updated CORE email lists
- Updating CORE website
- Updating CORE banking
- CORE Conference Ranking - 2014 Update
- ERA 2015 Journal and Conference list updates
- Government Budgets - New Zealand and Australia
- Defence controls act 2012
- Spending CORE \$
- ACDICT ACM
- ACSW 2015

- Updated CORE email lists

We've had problems with the CORE email lists for some time. This has included

- lost emails
- emails sent but only some receive
- moderated lists not working properly

We moved the email lists to a new provider and - touch wood - they are behaving themselves now!

- Updating CORE website

The CORE website has similar had some problems:

- difficulty in updating
- clumsy interface to update, navigate
- CMS old technology no longer maintainable
- CMS difficult to use
- ugly (OK, that's a matter of opinion :-))

Its in the process of getting a behind-the-scenes revamp,

and also a in-front-of refresh! Stay tuned for the new-look one coming soon!

-Updating CORE banking

Yes *B*anking, not *R*anking (for the moment)...

We have quite a bit of cash in the CORE accounts that would be good to earn a decent rate of interest on.

To that end we are in the process of moving the funds to new bank and improving our overall account management and access for Alison.

As previously, Lin as Treasurer/Secretary needs to approve all spending, and at least 2 of the exec need to approve transactions.

-CORE Conference Ranking - 2014 Update

Ok - now the *R*anking stuff...!

We are about to call for update proposals to the 2013 CORE Conference Ranking. Still no journal updates - sorry!

We'll shortly distribute instructions. Deadlines mid-July for proposed updates to FoR codes, new venues to add to CORE portal, and updates to CORE portal venues.

We are asking for a range of information to help make a comparative decision between venues and all collected info will go into the portal against venues.

And remember - there is a "crowd sourcing" capability right now in the portal so you can add stars to venues, comment on various aspects of venues etc, to compliment the ranking.

See:

www.core.edu.au/coreportal

for the current portal. **I'll send info on the 2014 ranking round asap.**

-ERA 2015 Journal and Conference list updates

The ARC are busily compiling lists for the ERA 2015 evaluation process.

We (CORE) have been asked to comment on the preliminary lists after they have (attempted to) incorporate info from the public consultation round.

The timeframe is tight and the ARC have asked for the draft lists not to be disseminated, so the CORE executive team (me, Lin, Alistair and Tom) are going through the venues with inconclusive FoR code requests and suggesting resolution to the ARC, for for the 08 codes.

The approach we are taking is for venues with widely ranging views on the 4 digit FoR code (i.e. more than 3), to suggest using a two digit code e.g. 08 if >3 08 FoR codes have been requested in the public consultation. As some venues are very general, this seems reasonable and allows publications in the venue to be any apportioned to any 4 digit code below that. I assume it allows apportionment to multiple 4 digit codes below the 2 digit, but I haven't re-read the ERA 2015 consultation docs to check this is the case...

The rationale for the above is so that people's publication behaviours don't get skewed due to ERA 2015 FoR selection for venues ie discouraged from using a most suitable venue just because it doesn't have specific 4 digit 4 code, when its suitable for a broader 2 digit code. Of course, many (most) venues have only 1-2 4 digit FoR codes suitable.

And don't get me started on the ridiculousness of the current FoR codes in use... The ARC tell us that these aren't due for a revamp / restructure until something like 2018 (!), and even then its unknown what might actually be changed. Sigh!

-Government Budgets - New Zealand and Australia

Both the New Zealand government and the Australian federal government released their 2014 budgets in the past few weeks.

New Zealand's had a few sweeteners for Higher Education including a little more \$ for students and a little more \$ for research support. But probably could be classified as tinkering around the edges...

Australia's was certainly not tinkering around the edges - major

changes including uncapping student contribution (fees), reducing many Commonwealth-supported funded bands (CompSci down \$900 or so a year, Science and Engineering down something like \$4,500 or more a year!!) - we estimate that given cost increases (consumables, equipment, staffing) and these reductions, for Engineering courses we would have to increase fees around 35-40% (or more) just to keep at current funding levels. Then there are the cuts to ARC, CSIRO, NICTA, ...

And opening up commonwealth supported funding to private providers and sub-degree levels.

We tried a bunch of these things in New Zealand - some of them many years ago - and promptly wasted vast amounts of public funding.

One lesson I learned from the New Zealand experience (experiment?) was that if we stick to our game plan - offer high quality education, build relationships with our stakeholders including industry, employers and schools, carry out high quality and high impact research - we (publicly funded Universities) have an awful lot to offer, including quality outcomes for students, industry and the country - despite some of our political masters' skepticism at times... Lets see if the NZ experiment outcomes are repeated in Oz!

[Note to Australians: many, but not all, of these decisions were subsequently unwound by the NZ government. Maybe its because they didn't work... or at least lost lots of votes.]

-Defence controls act 2012

You might find the following interesting:

<http://exportcontrols.govspace.gov.au/>

and

http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Foreign_Affairs_Defence_and_Trade/Trade_Implementation

I need to research the New Zealand equivalent (if there is one yet)... Any tips welcome!

Essentially this will control the export (defined in various ways but including email/web) of various "controlled" technologies and technology designs. Potentially a big impact on a number of computer science and software engineering research projects...

I have met with Kris Browne from the Dept of Industry to discuss current work on implementing the legislation. They are running a pilot scheme to "test" current research projects as to whether they may/will be impacted by the act when it comes into force next year. Details off the 1st web site above.

<http://exportcontrols.govspace.gov.au/faq/#howDSGL>

Its likely Universities in Australia will need to bring into play something like the testing of projects and people against Sanctions legislation e.g. if a PhD student is a national from a certain country, can they work on project XYZ?

-Spending CORE \$

We asked for proposals to spend some CORE \$ on developmental events in 2014. We didn't get any proposals that we felt met the criteria / spirit of the criteria...

I will likely ask again soon for some. A reminder the policy/procedure:

<http://core.edu.au/cms/images/downloads/documents/CORE%20Activity%20Grants%20Funding.pdf>

If you have an idea for a CORE community developmental event, or one planned that you are struggling to cover the costs for and would like to ask for some CORE support, see the above URL.

-ACDICT ACM

ACDICT are holding their AGM beginning of July. Alan Fekete is attending for CORE as the whole CORE exec team has found itself unavailable for various (good) reasons. Many thanks to Alan. The agenda off the ACDICT web site - you may like to speak with your Head/rep about anything you feel they could raise / discuss.

<http://acdlect.edu.au/index.htm>

-ACSW 2015

And finally - CFPs for ACSW are starting appear. Please note the dates in your calendar (27-30th Jan 2015), and think about submitting to one (or more!) events.

<http://acsw2015.acsw.org.au/test/index.html>

I welcome feedback at any time on any item.

All the best,

John

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