

Editor's Remarks

Dear Readers,

It is our distinct pleasure to welcome you to the latest issue of the Journal of Research Management and Governance (JRMG). As we navigate an increasingly challenging research landscape, the importance of effective research management has never been more apparent.

In recent years, we have witnessed significant shifts in how research is conducted, funded, and disseminated. The rise of interdisciplinary collaboration, the push for open science, and the growing emphasis on societal impact have all contributed to a transformation in research management practices. As practitioners and scholars in this field, we should continually adapt and innovate to support the advancement of knowledge while ensuring responsible and efficient use of resources.

In this issue, we present a diverse range of articles that explore critical challenges and emerging trends in research management:

- (a) **Setting the Benchmark: A Comparative Analysis of Research Performance Indicators between Leading World Research Universities and Top-Ranked Research Universities in Malaysia:** This article provides the comparison on the research performance and research preferences of leading world universities with those of highly ranked Malaysian universities. The analysis of the research performance offers insights for refining the research focus of Malaysian universities and strengthening international and corporate partnerships as well as unique regional research areas.
- (b) **Framework to Humanise Research Support in Academic Institutions:** The ever-evolving landscape of research management is a fundamentally human endeavour that encompasses individuals and institutions. Our authors propose a new framework based on which, universities can create a research ecosystem that balances global goals with local relevance, resulting in a collaborative working model that is more strategic.
- (c) **Reshaping Research Ecosystems: Recommendations for Equitable Recognition of Non-STEM Research in Higher Institution Management:** In recent years, there is an increasing call for more holistic approach to evaluating academic contributions, recognising the value of diverse disciplines and the limitations of purely quantitative assessments. This article highlights the importance of widening the concept of research impact, including qualitative evaluations, and embracing interdisciplinary approaches. It also discusses the impact of university rankings and the incorporation of SDGs in reframing the value of non-STEM disciplines.

- (c) **Empowering Research Ecosystems: Profiles and Bibliometrics Analysis of Research Officers at Universiti Malaya:** The future trajectory of Universiti Malaya (UM) as a prominent regional research institution in Malaysia is intricately intertwined with the expertise and contributions of its research workforce, including the Research Officers (ROs). This article provides an overview of their general roles in empowering UM's research and innovation landscape, and uses bibliometric analysis of data from the Scopus database to examine their scholarly output produced between 2018 and 2022. The findings show that the ROs consistently contribute to scholarly output and the important role of ROs in a Malaysian research university.

We are honoured to feature both empirical studies and theoretical frameworks in this issue that contribute to the growing body of knowledge in research management. As we move forward, JRMG remains committed to serving as a platform for sharing insights, best practices, and critical analyses that advance our understanding of effective research management. We encourage submissions that challenge existing paradigms and propose innovative solutions to the complex problems facing our research community.

We would like to express our appreciation to the authors for their valuable contributions and the reviewers whose thoughtful feedback has helped enhance the quality of the published work. We hope that the articles in this issue will encourage new ideas and inspire meaningful discussion among our readers. We look forward to your continued engagement with JRMG.

Thank you.

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