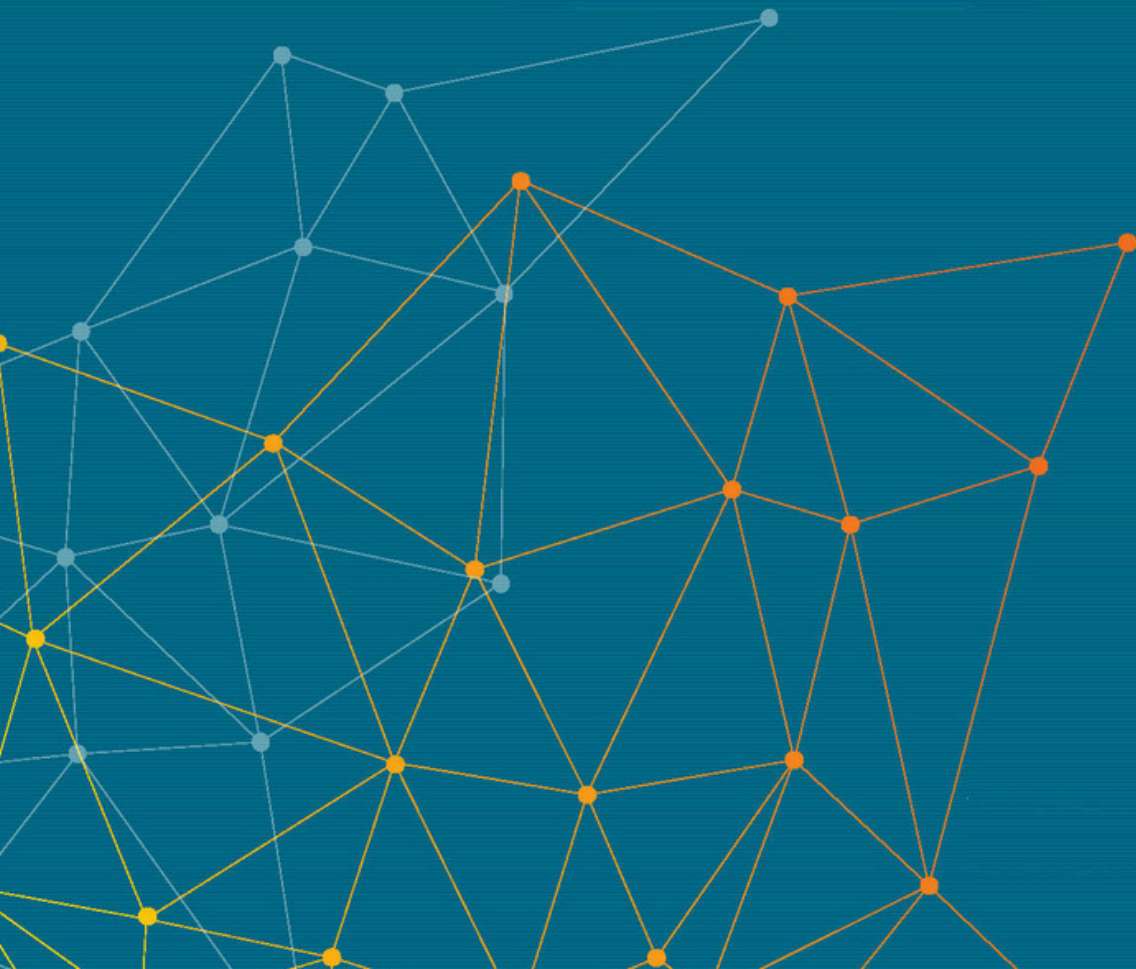




INFORMATICS RESEARCH EVALUATION, 2025 REVISED REPORT

An Informatics Europe report
endorsed by National Informatics Association members of
Informatics Europe



Informatics Research Evaluation, 2025 Revised Report

An Informatics Europe Report

Prepared by *the Research Evaluation Recommendations Panel* of Informatics Europe. Endorsed by National Informatics Associations of Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland and United Kingdom.

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Executive Summary

Evaluation is an indispensable instrument for improving research quality and impact. To achieve the intended effects, research evaluation should follow established and widely accepted principles, be benchmarked against appropriate criteria, and be sensitive to disciplinary differences. This report addresses the principles and criteria that are to be followed when individual researchers are evaluated for their research in the field of Informatics.

This report builds on and updates the outcomes of the 2008 and 2018 *Informatics Europe reports on Research Evaluation for Computer Science/Informatics*, while aligning its recommendations with other recent documents on research evaluation, most notably the *CoARA Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment (CoARA 2022)*. The report also contains updated analyses and recommendations in four topical areas of concern in Informatics: the responsible use of bibliometrics and credit assignment in contributions, assessing artefacts, Open Science, and interdisciplinary research, together with a discussion on the role of AI in research evaluation.

Our key messages are the following:

1. Informatics is an original discipline that combines aspects of mathematics, science, and engineering. Researcher evaluation must recognise and respect its specificity.
2. A distinctive feature of publication in Informatics is the importance of highly selective conferences. Journals have complementary advantages but do not necessarily carry more prestige. Publication models that couple conferences and journals, where the papers of a conference are published directly in a journal, are a growing trend that may bridge the current gap between these two forms of publishing.
3. Open archives and overlay journals are recent innovations in the Informatics publication culture that offer improved tracking in evaluation.
4. The impact of artefacts such as software, open datasets, and other research products such as trained machine learning models can be as great as publications. The evaluation of such objects, which is now conducted by many conferences, should be encouraged and accepted as an established component of research assessment. Another important indicator of impact is advances that lead to commercial exploitation or adoption by industry or standardisation bodies.
5. Open Science and its research evaluation practices are highly relevant to Informatics. Informatics has played a key enabling role in the Open Science revolution and should remain at its forefront.
6. Numerical measurements such as citation and publication counts must never be used as the sole evaluation instrument. They must be filtered through human interpretation, specifically to avoid errors, and complemented by peer review and assessment of outputs other than publications. In particular, numerical measurements must not be used to compare researchers across scientific disciplines, including across subfields of Informatics.
7. In Informatics, the order of authors often holds little significance and varies across subfields. Without clear guidelines, it should not be a factor in researcher evaluation. Instead, authors should be encouraged to clearly state the scope and role of their individual contributions to multi-author works.
8. In assessing institutions, researchers, publications, and citations, the use of open research information provided by Open Science infrastructures should be favoured and supported. When using ranking and benchmarking services provided by for-profit companies, respect for open access criteria is mandatory. Journal-based or journal-biased ranking services are inadequate for most of Informatics and must not be used.
9. Any evaluation, especially quantitative, must be based on clear, published criteria. Furthermore, assessment criteria must themselves undergo assessment and revision.
10. Any use of generative AI in research evaluation should increase the quality of the assessments and reduce the effort of the human evaluators. AI must not be used to reduce the number of human experts in assessment panels and their collective responsibility for the panels' recommendations.

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