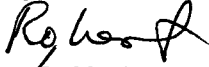


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Tuesday, 16 March 2010

Dr Robert Mesibov
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Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, and School of Zoology
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Penguin, TAS 7316



Dear Dr Mesibov

Thank you for your email regarding biological systematics-related journals.

The ERA 2010 Ranked Journal List has been developed over the past two years. The process started with the development of the lists by the four Learned Academies and a range of peak bodies in late 2007. The original lists were made available for public consultation for a three month period from June 2008, resulting in some 100,000 pieces of feedback. The ARC subsequently sought the advice of over 700 expert reviewers and discipline peak bodies on the draft list.

To arrive at the final quality rating assigned to each journal, the ARC considered all feedback received during the expert review and public consultation process. The ARC also took account of other recognised indices of journal performance where relevant.

We received a number of reviews for *Zootaxa* and for each of the Australian museum journals referred to in your email. The advice from discipline experts was that a C rank was appropriate for these journals.

The ERA journal list has been developed to be internationally recognised – and we have worked hard with our expert reviewers to preserve this aspect to the list. Other lists take into account particular aspects such as regional relevance where local journals achieve a higher rating.

In order to provide institutions sufficient time to prepare for submission in June, we are unable to make changes to the list. However, the ARC has said publically that it will conduct a full review process to revise the ranked journal list prior to any future round of ERA. Any such process would involve both public consultation and direct consultation with expert reviewers and discipline peak bodies. I would encourage the Society of Australian Systematic Biologists to take part.

Best wishes



Margaret Sheil
Chief Executive Officer