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# Responsible Research Assessment: From DORA to Research Impact Assessment at the University of Calgary

BRIC Conference 2025

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## The **Knowledge to Impact team**

supports collaborative efforts to **maximize and recognize the positive impacts of research** for the benefit of our local, national and international communities.

 [ucalgary.ca/knowledge-impact](https://ucalgary.ca/knowledge-impact)

## **Libraries & Cultural Resources**

helps researchers present a coherent picture of their research and impact.

<https://library.ucalgary.ca/impact>



# DORA/RIA Project

UCalgary  
signed DORA

DORA included  
in Academic  
Handbook

DORA Team  
established, and  
hired 2 FTE

Policy  
document  
review,  
Faculty visits

Research Impact  
Framework, Menu  
of Indicators,  
Narrative CV  
guidelines

Jan

Jun

Nov

2021

2022-2023

2024 onwards

## Working Group (Dec 2021 – Jan 2023)

- Reviewed DORA case studies & current practices
- Identified areas of strength & development
- Drafted UCalgary research impact statement

- Faculty visits and consultations
- Webinars – internal and external speakers
- [DORA website](#) and resources
- Support policy updates: GFC (2023, 2024), Faculty Guidelines (2024), Academic Selection Toolkit (2024)
- Liaise with units, funders and other institutions

Knowledge to Impact Team (2021 - present)

## **GFC Academic Staff Criteria & Processes Handbook (2021)**

### **1. Criteria for Research and Scholarship, Teaching, and Service**

In keeping with the commitment of the University of Calgary to the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA), research and scholarship activities shall be evaluated based on the quality of the research and scholarship, relying on robust tools and approaches to assessing research quality and impact, rather than on bibliometrics alone. This includes considering the merit of all research and scholarship outputs as well as a broad range of qualitative impact indicators such as influence on policy and practice.



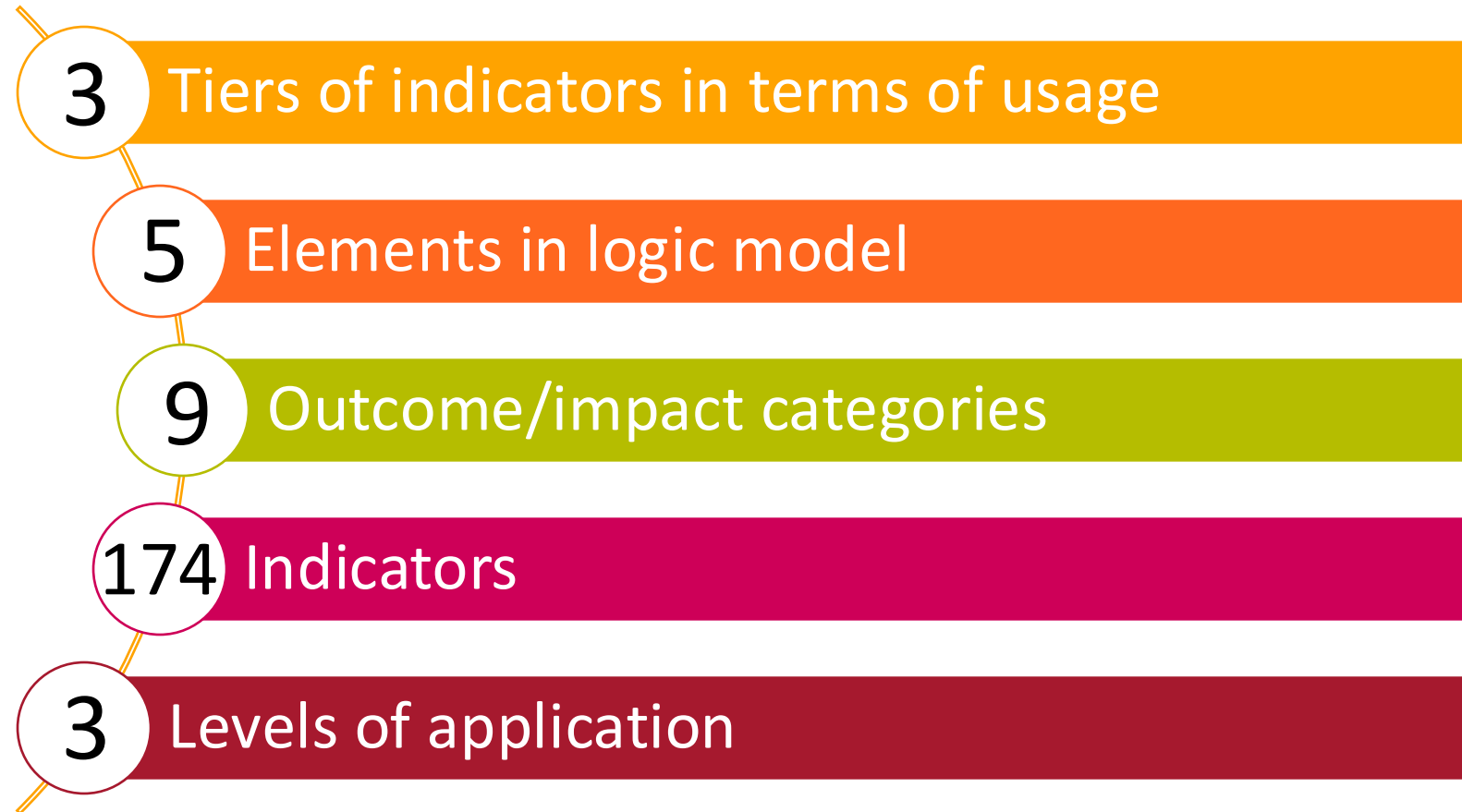
# Library Involvement

- We've been teaching/providing reference services about bibliometrics for many years
  - Including limitations and biases of metrics
- Participated in campus-wide DORA Research Impact and Assessment Group (2022-23)
- Reworked library guides and instruction in collaboration with KI team
  - Very helpful to have DORA signatory status to bolster instruction and reference work
  - Continue to co-teach with colleagues from RSO
- Acquired new tool to help with impact tracking - Overton

# Menu of Indicators

- University of Calgary has committed to:
  - Provide educational opportunities on research impact using validated and replicable frameworks
  - Implement campus-wide research impact assessment reporting across all research units, centers, and institutes
  - Advance DORA principles in all evaluations of UCalgary professoriate and their diverse contributions
- Research impact indicators
  - Indicators beyond traditional bibliometrics
  - Both quantitative and qualitative indicators
- No comprehensive list of indicators currently exists

# Summary





# Frequency of Usage

- Each indicator is classified into three groups based on the frequency of usage
  - **Core:** Indicators are frequently used in all research assessment
  - **Intermediate:** Indicators are occasionally used in some research assessment
  - **Advanced:** Indicators are only used in some specific research assessment

ID	Indicator/Metric	UCRED	Frequency of usage
1	Number of journal articles published	Publication count	Core
2	Number of books/book chapters/monograph published		Core
3	Number of conference papers published		Core
4	Number of citations		Core
5	Relative citation impact	FWCI	Intermediate
6	Citation distribution index/chart		Advanced
7	Highly cited publications (Top 10% highly cited papers)	Output in Top 10% citation	Intermediate
8	Field analysis of citations		Advanced
9	Relative activity index		Advanced



# Logic Model

- Pathway to Impact
  - 5 elements to reach the research impact
- Each indicator is classified into these 5 elements
  - Some indicators may be categorized as multiple stages

A	B	I	J	K	L	M
		Logic Model				
ID	Indicator/Metric	Input	Activities	Output	Outcome	Impact
1	Number of journal articles published	0	0	1	0	0
2	Number of citations	0	0	0	1	0
3	Relative citation impact	0	0	0	1	0
4	Citation distribution index/chart	0	0	0	1	0
5	Highly cited publications	0	0	0	1	0
6	Field analysis of citations	0	0	0	1	0





# Outcome/Impact Category

- 8 Categories of research impact
  - Advancing Knowledge
  - Building Capacity
  - Informing Decisions
  - Health Impact
  - Economic Impact
  - Social Impact
  - *Cultural Impact – indicators needed*
  - *Environmental – indicators needed*
  - *+ EDIA, Indigenous research, open science – indicators needed*
- Each indicator is exclusively assigned to its corresponding category

ID	Indicator/Metric	Outcome/Impact Category
31	% of activity grants with infrastructure	Building Capacity
85	Academic collaboration	Building Capacity
185	Adherence to clinical guidelines	Health
130	Amount of direct employment	Economic Impact
170	Annual report of HRSDC	Social Impact
88	Average share of women per paper	EDIA, Indigenous Research,
86	Bibliometric networks	Building Capacity
62	Career outcomes for researchers	Building Capacity
4	Citation distribution index/chart	Advancing Knowledge
186	Civil law suits against the health system	Health
126	clinic research	Health
144	Clustering / co- location	Informing Decisions



# Level of Application

- Each indicator has its scope of use
  - Micro: Individual
  - Meso: Unit, institution
  - Ecosystem/Macro: Provincial and up
- Each indicator is labelled according to its level of application

ID	Indicator/Metric	Micro: Individual	Meso: Unit; Institutional	Ecosystem: Provincial up
31	% of activity grants with infrastructure	0	1	0
85	Academic collaboration	1	1	1
185	Adherence to clinical guidelines	0	0	1
130	Amount of direct employment	0	1	1
170	Annual report of HRSDC	0	0	1
88	Average share of women per paper	1	1	1
86	Bibliometric networks	1	1	1

# Platform

- Options for final product:
  - Webpage with searchable database
  - Interactive PDF
  - Traditional guidebook
  - Others
- Allow users to find appropriate indicators

## Indicator Selection Tool

### Select the indicator by Logic Model

Input     Activities     Output     Outcome     Impact

### Select the indicator by impact category

Advancing Knowledge  
Building Capacity  
Economic Impact  
Health  
Informing Decisions  
Multiple categories  
Social Impact

### Select the indicator by level of application

Individual     Institution/Unit     Ecosystem

### Select the indicator by frequency of usage

Core     Intermediate     Advanced

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**THANK YOU**