

Acknowledgement of Funders in Scholarly Journal Articles

Guidance for Research Funders, Authors and Publishers

February 2008

The Issue

Most of the major research funders in the UK have for long included in their terms and conditions of award a requirement for researchers to acknowledge in any publication the support received from the funder in question. But there has been up to now no standard wording, or guidance on the form the acknowledgement should take. So it is difficult for funders to discover what publications have arisen from projects they have funded; and for publishers to present acknowledgements in a consistent way. Our guidance will remedy those deficiencies.

The Benefits

Researchers will benefit from clearer guidance, and readers will appreciate greater transparency;

Research funders will benefit from easier monitoring of outputs from their grants and awards;

Publishers will improve the information services they provide, facilitate the development of relationships with funders, and enhance the articles they publish.

Implementation

Our recommendations are targeted at research supported by UK funders, and we recognise that adopting and implementing them will take time. Since research and publication are international in scope, we hope that they may be taken up by other bodies overseas.

We shall reconvene in a year's time to review progress.

Further information is available on the RIN website at <http://www.rin.ac.uk/funders-acknowledgement>

Our recommendations

When research funders next amend their terms and conditions of grant they should encourage their grant-holders to acknowledge their funding in a consistent fashion by specifying that all published research articles should include a funding acknowledgement in the following form:

*This work was supported by
the Medical Research Council
[grant number xxx]*

This format should also be used when submitting articles into a [repository](#).

We also provide guidance to publishers on good practice in [tagging](#) the information provided by authors.

To help achieve consistency, the RIN will provide on its website a [list of the full titles of major UK research funders](#).

In some cases, research is not funded by any specific project grant. In those cases, the following formula should be used:

*This research received no specific
grant from any funding agency
in the public, commercial, or
not-for-profit sectors.*

The signatories

This guidance is endorsed by the Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers, the Association of Medical Research Charities, the Publishers Association, Research Councils UK and the Wellcome Trust.