

AHRC Strategy, Programmes and Future Directions



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Political Contexts: Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills

- Brown's cabinet reshuffle, Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) formed autumn 2007 and BERR becomes DBIS (Department of Business, Innovation and Skills)
- Scrutiny of research support (85% of a + h funding from QR)
- Impact possibly 25% of REF (both sides of dual support expecting impact)

Political Contexts: Recession

- Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) announcement about science ring-fence (STEM also ring-fenced in other parts of the UK)
- Brown April '09 budget very tight for higher education but Research Council ring-fence retained
- Will put greater demand on Research Council resources

Contexts: Academic Perspective

- Arts and humanities had 5 'RAEs' before they had a research council
 - RAE apparently pulling in different direction than Research Councils
 - REF to bridge the gap through impact assessment
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AHRC in these Contexts

History:

- AHRB (splinter of British Academy) formed 1998
- AHRC Royal Charter April 2005
- Over the last four years the AHRC has benefited from a 35% uplift in funding, from £80.5 million in 2005/06 to £109 million announced for 2010/11

AHRC in these Contexts

Scope:

- 27% of research-active academic community within AHRC remit
- Over 14,000 academics
- Approximately 50 disciplines/sub-disciplines
- AHRC receives 2.8% of the science and research budget

AHRC in these Contexts

Quality:

Arts and humanities research received the highest percentage of 4* ratings in the 2008 RAE

Principal Schemes

Research Grants

Fellowships

Networks

Studentships

Main areas of support

Strategic programmes and centres

Blue skies research

International partnerships

Knowledge Exchange


Strategic Programmes: Digital Economy

- Digital Economy: 6 Doctoral Training Centres supported, 3 include arts and humanities
- 7 multi-disciplinary Large Grants funded under 'Beyond Text' programme, call for Small Grants launched

Digital Economy/British Library Sandpit

- AHRC initiative led to scoping workshop held 18 March 2009
- Three-day 'sandpit' held in July looking at interactions between digital technologies, research and physical environments
- Development of new digital research centre for BL

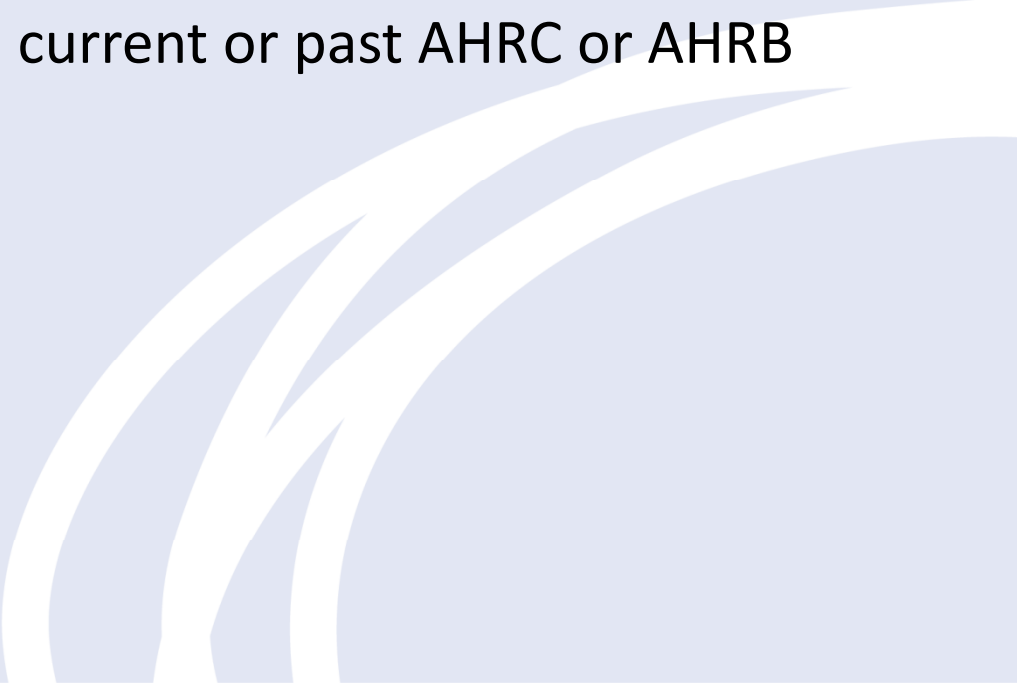
Global Uncertainties

- 'Ideas and Beliefs': 14 awards made, 6 in arts and humanities
 - 3 Networking, 7 Small Grants funded under R&S 'Youth Call'
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LWEC call

- Workshop jointly organised by Landscape & Environment and Science & Heritage programmes to consider what the arts and humanities can contribute to the LWEC programme
- As part of our contribution to LWEC, we have announced a supplementary call under the L&E programme for Networks and/or small exploratory awards in A + H contribution to environmental research

DEDEFI CALL JUST ANNOUNCED

- ‘Digital Equipment and Database Enhancement for Impact’
 - Supports (1) enhanced access to leading edge digital technologies and facilities by arts and humanities researchers and/or
 - (2) enhanced impact from digital research outputs, such as databases, established with current or past AHRC or AHRB support.
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Connected Communities

- Proposed cross-Council theme, led by AHRC, with ESRC, EPSRC, MRC and NERC also involved
- Consultation held with Local Authority Cross-Council Initiative (LARCI), 1st June 2009
- Consultation with key cross-Council stakeholders held 2nd June
- Forming of Expert Advisory Group and 'desk based' case study work with LARCI

Research Careers – Fellowships

- New Fellowship scheme launched in September 2009
- Following Future Directions consultation, further consideration will be given to the support offered to early career researchers
- Development of Impact Fellowships for Strategic Programme Directors for follow-on activities

International

- Humanities in European Research Area call for 'Cultural Dynamics' and 'Creativity and Innovation' received approximately 250 applications: 2/3 had UK partners
- AHRC co-funding awards under ESF's 'Eurobabel' programme to address Endangered Languages
- Net-Heritage project progressing well. A new MoU has been signed with the Italian Research Council
- International Strategy agreed
- 40 applications for Library of Congress studentships: 35 AHRC, 5 ESRC


Knowledge Transfer

- KT Strategy launched February 2009
- 31 KT Partnerships currently funded, 27 in partnership with TSB/EPSRC
- BT Network call: results announced
- 4 co-funded awards agreed under TSB Creative Industries call – Creative Economy programme

BBC Knowledge Exchange Programme completed

- AHRC evaluation to inform future co-funding calls & approaches to partnership working
- AHRC/BBC event on 27 April 2009 showcased innovative outcomes and impacts of projects
- High profile academics, BBC policymakers & production staff, leaders in creative industries, Government figures attended the event.


Technology Strategy Board

- AHRC-led workshop with co-funding from TSB in autumn 2009 will bring together leading technologists and AHRC Strategic Programme Directors & researchers
 - TSB has published a new strategy for the CI sector
 - AHRC/ESRC/TSB/EPSRC and the Intellectual Property Office and SABIP in consultation about a centre for Copyright and Business Models
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Future Directions

- Consultation launched February 2009
- Closing date was 11 May
- Advisory Board and Council discussed outcomes in June
- Some results and further consultation on AHRC website since then
- Emerging themes being developed

Future Directions: Themes Emerging from Research Community

- Digital Humanities
 - Translating Cultures
 - Care for the Future
 - The Art of Science
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