



Event summary

Vitae Connections: Researching, writing and publishing about researcher development

3 – June – 2015

Event overview

At the [Vitae Connections](#) event on researching, writing, and publishing about researcher development, participants considered how we approach the practice of researcher development, why we should conduct research in the field, and what impact it has on the practice of researcher development and the profession of researcher development

Guest presenters shared their motivations for and experiences of doing research and publishing in researcher development. The presentations sparked lively discussions and debates, and several key themes emerged from the day

Motivations

Why research into researcher development?

■ **Credibility**

A key motivation for conducting research and publishing was to increase credibility with both researchers and academic colleagues

■ **Evidence-base**

A main benefit of conducting research is to strengthen provision and delivery by having an evidence-based practice

■ **Research experience**

Gaining current, practical experience of doing research informs researcher development practice and benefits professional work with researchers. It can provide a useful refresher and new research methodologies for those with a previous research background, and provide new skills and insight to those without prior research experience

Specification and Dissemination

The event covered the practicalities of research and publishing in researcher development, such as

- What can you research into?
- How can research and scholarship become part of your role?
- What evidence would you like to have?
- What existing evidence can you draw on?
- How can you share your research with the community?
- What forms of publication are appropriate?

Professionalisation

How can this benefit my professional development?

Vitae champions the professional development of researcher developers, and the [Vitae Career Framework for Researcher Developers](#) (CFRD) highlights [writing and publishing](#) as one element for development, and research into researcher development supports the [underpinning knowledge](#) required

Vitae Career Framework for Researcher Developers



The event explored the issue of professionalisation of researcher development and how we define our identities as researcher developers. Several presenters have had success by making the case to management about the importance of practice-based research to improve training and development opportunities within their institution. Thus, the research project becomes part of the normal workload rather than an “extra” thing to do, and forms part of annual reviews and goals.

Other hot tips from the event!

To carve out time
“you have to be willing
to say no and drop
other work”

– Dr Velda McCune

Researcher developers
“need to create,
disseminate and apply
knowledge with
demonstrable impact”

– Dr Tony Bromley

Don't be discouraged by
rejection
“nearly every published
paper is revised at least
once”

– Sharon Parkinson

“Finding stuff out
= research”

– Dr Anna Price



“Unpublished research is no help
to anyone”

– Hannah Foreman

Understand
**copyright
& ethics**



“Research into practice
can provide the
evidence needed to win
support with
stakeholders”

– Dr Sharon Saunders

Innovate



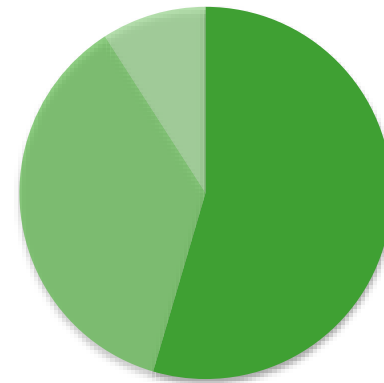
Where will the next
innovation in researcher
development come from?

What did participants take away?

The event successfully met participants initial objectives of

- gathering information
- getting practical advice
- undertaking professional development
- networking
- sharing best practice

We asked participants “how far did the event meet your initial objectives?”



■ Very high ■ High ■ Low ■ Very low

What did participants take away?



We asked participants “what will you do differently as a result of this event?”



I will look for a social scientist to collaborate with!



Got lots of ideas about doing research and disseminating it, and will need to work out a plan going forward



Review my job description to make sure research is part of my role



I might write a paper and try to publish it!

What next for Vitae?

Vitae will continue to lead, support and contribute to evidence-informed practice and innovation in researcher development, through

- **Informing strategy and navigating policy**
e.g. [HR Excellence in Research](#), [Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers](#)
- **Strengthening institutional provision to provide evidence-informed researcher development**
e.g. [Vitae Library of Resources](#) for researcher developers
- **Supporting the professional development of researcher developers**
e.g. [Vitae Career Framework for Researcher Developers](#) (CFRD), [Vitae Connections events](#)
- **Inspiring researchers to realise their potential**
e.g. [Vitae Researcher Development Framework](#) (RDF)
- **Demonstrating the impact of researcher development**
e.g. [The Impact Framework](#), [Researcher development evaluation toolkit](#), [What do researchers do?](#)

What next for you?

Opportunities for professional development, networking, practice-sharing and collaboration for researcher developers

- **Attend a future event**

e.g. [Vitae Researcher Development International Conference 2015](#), [Vitae Connections](#)

- **Share practice and participate in the discussion**

e.g. join the [Vitae Member Community](#), search the [Vitae Membership Directory](#)

- **Follow up on this event**

e.g. [view the Tweets](#), [Vitae News article](#), review the presenter slides (event attendees only)

- **Develop yourself**

e.g. [Vitae Career Framework for Researcher Developers](#) (CFRD), tips on [getting published](#) and [publishing your research](#)

- **Get stuck in**

e.g. [contact us](#) for opportunities to partner and collaborate on research and innovation in researcher development

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