

Process for Updates of CORE Conference Rankings

June 2013

CORE executive has agreed a process for a 2013 update of the ERA 2010 rankings, and a plan to do further updates annually. At this stage this is **not** intended as a thorough review, but merely as a mechanism for correcting clear errors in the existing list. The focus is initially on the conference list. Journals may be addressed at a later date.

An initial list will be obtained from a combination of the ERA 2010 and CORE 2008 lists, with some modifications as described below. (This list will be placed on the CORE server, and email sent when it has been generated.) Change requests will be made with respect to this list. These will then be assessed by the CORE executive or a sub-committee thereof, and decisions made. The list will be updated, and documentation will be attached regarding the change justification. If no change is made, the request documentation will still be attached (electronically) to the item within the list.

The following sections outline the base list, the process for making change requests and the the timeline and process for dealing with these requests.

The base list

The base list will be produced by the following modifications to the ERA 2010 list.

1. Any international venues present in the CORE 2008 list, but not in the ERA 2010 list, will be added back in, with the rankings they had in the CORE 2008 list.
2. The A* category for conferences will be re-introduced by simply taking the A* rankings from the 2008 CORE list and putting them back in.
3. All Australasian national venues that are ranked B (by default) will be re-categorised as “Australasian”, with no ranking.
4. Any national non-Australasian venues will be removed from the list. (Venues with a national title, but that are de-facto international venues, will be retained and ranked as for other international venues.) Initially some venues may be missed. This will be a work in progress.
5. A category “NEW” will be introduced that is available to be used for a venue that is less than 5 years old, where it is expected that an A*-C ranking will be established over time, but where quality is not yet clear. (Some venues currently unranked, that are less than 5 years old, that appear to be worth maintaining a ranking for, may be re-categorised as NEW; others may be recategorised as the result of a change request).
6. Some venues will remain UNRANKED, with a comment at the top of the list that this tag indicates that there is insufficient evidence of their quality to warrant assigning a rank.
7. The list will contain a comment that national conferences (and journals) play an important role within a country, or geographical area. Previously in this list Australasian venues have by default generally been classified as B. They are now classified as Australasian. It is the intent to remove venues that are clearly national venues for some other country, although some venues that are national in name are in fact international venues of repute and will be maintained with relevant ranking.

Content of change requests

1. Change requests must identify the venue for which the change is being requested, by both full name and acronym.
2. Change requests must be emailed to alison@core.edu.au, with subject line “Ranking List Change Request” by the required date.
3. A request must be supported by one or more named people. (Number of names will not influence decisions, but will be recorded with the request for future reference.) All named supporters must be cc:d on the email to Alison.

4. Change requests must be identified as a ranking change request, or other change request.
5. Other change requests may include FOR codes, name of venue, or any other information recorded in the list. Justification for the requested change should be given.
6. Ranking change requests must indicate the change being requested: from rank X, to rank Y, and must provide the following information, or a statement that the information is not available:
 - (a) Position in Microsoft Academic Search (overall and within sub-area) with date obtained. Position in this list must be counted manually.
academic.research.microsoft.com/?SearchDomain=2&entitytype=3
 - (b) Position in Arnetminer (overall and within sub-area) with date obtained.
<http://arnetminer.org/page/conference-rank/html/All-in-one.html>
 - (c) Position in Google citations ranking (overall and within sub-area) with date obtained.
http://scholar.google.com/citations?view_op=top_venues&hl=en&vq=eng
 - (d) The name and rank (in current CORE list) of the subdiscipline conferences immediately above this venue in each of the above lists.
 - (e) The name and rank (in current CORE list) of the subdiscipline conferences immediately below this venue in each of the above lists.
 - (f) Names and h index of program chairs for current and previous year.
 - (g) A similar (in content) venue at the rank this venue is requested to be moved from, with names and h-index of that conference's program chair(s).
 - (h) A similar (in content) venue at the rank this venue is requested to be moved to, with names and h-index of that conference's program chair(s).
 - (i) If the venue started within the last 5 years, date of start should be provided.
7. Additional information/justification/evidence may be provided as desired. Possibilities could include:
 - Details of a person who by virtue of their role should be qualified to make a judgement.
 - names and h-index of program chairs over a longer time period.
 - data on conference citation rates compared with other venues in the same content area.
8. Requests to change a venue from UNRANKED (or some rank) to NEW should provide verifiable information (generally information on a webpage associated with the venue) regarding when the venue started. Requests to move from UNRANKED to NEW are not required to provide the information in (e) and (f) above. Other requests for change to NEW do not require information in (f). Other required information must be provided.
9. All information contained in a request, including the list of proposers, will be retained and be accessible in the online version of the list, regardless of whether or not any change is made.

Process and timing for managing change requests

Longer term, it is anticipated that an annual cycle of updates will be followed, with change requests (including all details listed above) required to be lodged by 1 July each year, and a revised ranking to be issued by 1 September each year.

Given the possible volume of updates anticipated in 2013, and the delayed start, the following schedule will be followed for 2013:

- 15 July 2013: deadline for making change requests, including collation of required information (see above).
- 15 August: all change requests will have been through a preliminary review by the Working Group. Cases where further elaboration is required will be referred back to the proposers.
- 1 September: final date for response to requests for elaboration.
- 1 October 2013: publication of revised ranking.

Where information is unambiguous and/or the CORE exec is in full agreement, a change will be made. If this is not the case, the requested change may not be made, but the request and related evidence will be accessible as part of the list. It is intended that the list, historical information, requests and justifications will all be accessible from a CORE maintained website.

Queries about the process to be followed should be directed to rankings@core.edu.au with subject header "Ranking List Change Question"



Lin Padgham <lin.padgham@gmail.com>

[CORE-Executive] CORE 2013 Ranked Conference Venue Base List

John Grundy <jgrundy@swin.edu.au>

27 August 2013 09:47

To: "cshods@core.edu.au" <cshods@core.edu.au>, "csprofs@core.edu.au" <csprofs@core.edu.au>, "executive@core.edu.au" <executive@core.edu.au>, "core-members@lists.core.edu.au" <core-members@lists.core.edu.au>

Dear Colleagues

The CORE 2013 base conference venues list is now available on the CORE web site:

<http://core.edu.au/index.php/categories/conference%20rankings/1>

This is WITHOUT integration of the change requests received (approximately 20) that we are about to action and then upload a modified list with changes made. The uploaded list is a "restored" list for the purpose of comments prior to actioning the received change requests.

Some key things to note:

- this list is more or less a merger of CORE 2008 and ERA 2010 lists, where each had some venues missing, particularly the 0807 coded venues in ERA 2010

- the A* ranking for selected flagship conferences have been added back from the CORE 2008 list

- predominantly Australasian national venues have been tagged "Australasian" to indicate they are a national publication venue vs attempting to rank them as international venues

- predominantly non-Australasian national venues have been marked to be removed from the list, as this list is primarily for use by our (Australasian CS) community, and as such it is neither appropriate nor useful for us to rank predominantly national venues of others, alongside international venues. These will be removed unless we receive input showing that they are in fact important international events.

We are now accepting 4 different kinds of input, before processing changes already received, and finalising the 2013 list:

- 1) change ranking to "NEW". Please provide evidence that the conference

started within the last 5 years. Please provide a url for easy verification.

2) Do NOT remove: If there is a conference that is marked REMOVE? and you think this is inappropriate, please provide evidence that this is de-facto an international event of some importance. This could include evidence of international chairs, attendance/publication data, etc.

3) Addition/change to FOR codes: Please provide some justification. In general if there are less than 3 FOR codes we will just add a new. If there are more that seem justified we will move to 2-digit code.

4) Mark as "Australasian" or remove as a non-Australasian national conference: please send some justification. It is certainly possible we have missed some.

Please send the above requests to rankings@core.edu.au by **14th September 2013**.

We are not accepting further ranking change requests at this stage, but there will be another round within a year, to further adjust the list as necessary.

If you want to discuss any general issues e.g. whether to rank or not; ranking methodology (or lack thereof); national venue remove / tagging; etc, please use the Wiki for this purpose:

<http://corediscussions.shoutwiki.com/wiki/Rankings>

Best regards,

John

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