



**Australian and New Zealand Standard Research Classifications Review (ANZSRCR)  
Australian Historical Association Submission**

The Australian Historical Association (AHA) is the peak national body of historians which includes academic, professional and other historians working in all fields of history. The AHA currently has over 900 members which includes established scholars as well as mid-career, early career historians and students. The AHA hosts an annual conference and runs the journal *History Australia* which is published four times a year.

The key FoR codes affecting AHA members is 21 History and Archology; 2103 Historical Studies and the six digital codes under Historical Studies (210301, 210302, 210303, 210304, 210305, 210306, 210307, 210308, 210309, 210310, 210311, 210312, 210313, 210399). As an interdisciplinary subject, historians also routinely use other codes such as those in 16 (Studies in Human Society); 20 (Language, Communication, Culture); and 22 (Philosophy and Religious Studies).

This submission is confined to the three special issues for consideration where comments are especially sought in the review, namely:

- New and emerging research disciplines;
- Interdisciplinary and Multidisciplinary Research;
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, Maori and Pacific Peoples Studies

**1. New and emerging fields.**

To reflect recent and emerging fields in historical research, the following categories are recommended. History codes are nearly all organised by place, with the exception of Biography and Classical Greek and Roman History, and the additional specificity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history and Maori history. This is not necessarily the only means to categorise history codes.

**Transnational and International history:** There are many projects that simply do not fit into the neat national classifications and end up in 210399 [Historical Studies not elsewhere classified]. This is now insufficient. The discipline has embraced the global call in historical studies that now urgently needs to be reflected in revised FoR codes.

**Digital History:** This is an emerging field which is sure to expand further with the discipline of digital humanities continuing to evolve and expand. It would fall into the category of *emerging subject areas that are likely to generate significant volumes of research activity over the next ten years, even if the current level of activity in those areas is low*. It is significant to note that Digital History is a major field internationally.

**Gender History:** The review document makes it explicit that FoR code is a classification *for research activity according to the methodology used in the research, rather than the activity of the unit performing the research or the purpose of the research.* This sits oddly with the choice in history to list by place. If the FoR codes are about *methodology* then Gender History should be recommended as it is focused on methodology. While obviously not new or emerging, it is overdue.

**Migration History:** Like the histories listed above this is not confined to national history borders. It is a major research area which is currently not captured in any other code.

**Business and Labour History:** This field of historical research should be a history code.

**Latin American History:** This should be Latin and South American History

## 2. Interdisciplinary/Multidisciplinary

The system of listing a range of FoR codes is not necessarily a problem and this does, in history at least, genuinely reflect interdisciplinary activity. Most people working in Indigenous studies use multiple FoRs, with diminishing percentages, as this work is historical/ archaeological/ anthropological and importantly it is often comparative, that is, of multiple places. The aim is to see virtually nothing placed in the 'and other' category.

## 3. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

There is a case for a new Division named Indigenous Studies, which covers all relevant disciplines and also covers Indigenous peoples world-wide. The question then would be where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander History and Maori History and Pacific History (other than Maori and New Zealand History) then fit, under Historical Studies or Indigenous Studies, and the implications for Historical Studies generally. It would be expected that history would not be lost in an interdisciplinary category, and that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander History and Indigenous Studies could be co-coded.