Achieving Excellent Research
A Series of Workshops Facilitated by Dr Shelda Debowski

In the last decade there has been a growing recognition of the importance of developing the core skills that underpin effective research. Independent researchers need ongoing support to build their research strategy, gain external funding, establish strong collaborations and move into leadership roles.

This series of full day (9.30am to 4.00pm) workshops draws on extensive experience in guiding national and international development projects to support research excellence. It builds on a decade of work that was undertaken with the University of Western Australia’s researchers and research leaders. The workshops explore critical research capabilities that encourage individual and team success, enhance productivity and achieve more sustainable research groups. The five workshops can be taken as a whole program or individually if preferred.

Shelda Debowski, PhD, M.Ed, B.Ed MAPS, CAHRI, GAICD, FHERDSA, FAIM, ATEMF, is a world leader in research development who, during her ten years as Winthrop Professor of Higher Education Development at UWA, could see the need for more extensive support for researchers. She developed many innovations including Leading Edge: a leadership development program for senior research leaders and On Track, a faculty-based early career academic development program. Her Research Project Management Checklist is now being adopted by research institutes to encourage consistent research practices. Shelda was named a finalist in the Telstra Business Women’s Awards in 2007 and 2012 for her leadership of research development innovations. She has published widely and her most recent book, The New Academic: A Strategic Handbook explores a number of critical research capabilities that new academics need to develop. Her new guide Leading Academic Networks draws on her experience of chairing international networks and as President of HERDSA.

The key principles behind the workshops:

- Encourage an holistic understanding of research strategy
- Introduce the science of research practice and leadership
- Explore real issues and challenges
- Reflect leading edge research development strategies
- Introduce useful self-assessment tools
- Highly interactive, reflective and educative
- Participants will leave ready to apply their learning

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Workshop Synopsis

Workshop 1
The Strategic Academic: Surviving and thriving in Academe
Tuesday, 30 September 2014
Getting established as an academic can be challenging and confusing: so many demands and so little time. It can be hard to work out what matters and how to plan for a long-term future. This workshop offers early career academics and researchers a simple road map to success. It guides participants through the process of clarifying their career priorities, identifying their critical goals and addressing their time wasters. The workshop will encourage participants to think about how they are positioning themselves for success and explores some of the ways they can move toward a more strategic approach to their careers.

Workshop 2
Managing Your Research Project
Friday, 7 November 2014
The transition from potential to established author requires a strategic approach to writing and publishing. There are a number of principles that are employed by successful authors to increase their productivity, impact and effectiveness. This workshop offers participants an opportunity to reflect on their writing strategy and ways in which they can improve their publishing outcomes. Participants will identify their own personal writing and publishing blocks and how they may be overcome. They will develop a clear plan for the coming year to increase their writing quality and effectiveness.

Workshop 3
Maximising Your Publishing Opportunities
Friday, 14 November 2014
The transition from potential to established author requires a strategic approach to writing and publishing. There are a number of principles that are employed by successful authors to increase their productivity, impact and effectiveness. This workshop offers participants an opportunity to reflect on their writing strategy and ways in which they can improve their publishing outcomes. Participants will identify their own personal writing and publishing blocks and how they may be overcome. They will develop a clear plan for the coming year to increase their writing quality and effectiveness.

Workshop 4
Establishing and Maintaining Collaborative Relationships
Friday, 21 November 2014
Successful researchers note the criticality of building close and sustainable collaborative partnerships. The level of success can be greatly enhanced by an understanding of how people build their collaborations, impact and visibility. Drawing on the secrets of many successful researchers this workshop offers participants an opportunity to learn more about effective collaboration and networking. It is ideally suited to individuals who wish to launch into a more active and engaged approach toward working with other colleagues.

Workshop 5
Setting Up a Research Team for Success
Friday, 5 December 2014
Research teams require careful planning and forethought to ensure they are poised for success. This workshop explores the first phase of building a research team, offering an overview of the critical practices that will ensure the team has the right people, systems and processes to get started efficiently. It explores the key practices that will underpin effective communication, high quality outcomes and well-managed interpersonal relationships. The role of the research leader in building a collaborative and respectful culture within the team will be explored. Strategies to support research students as members of the team will also be examined.