Writing Research Statements for Non-Traditional Research Outputs

A completed research statement for a creative output is essential for its entry onto Griffith University's *Figshare* platform and its eligibility for reporting purposes (via acceptance into the University's Annual Collection).

A research statement, consisting of approximately 250 words, should identify and contextualise research aspects of the creative work (irrespective of the *type* of work). Given the nature of multifaceted, arts-oriented research, it can be a challenge to write a concise statement. However, a short segment of writing can sufficiently highlight the conceptual essence of the artistic research.

The statement must address research aspects under the three sub-headings of

I. ***Research Background***

II. ***Research Contribution***

III. ***Research Significance***

i)   Research Background:

The research background should draw attention to the current state of knowledge of a topic in academic and public arenas. Valid points to highlight could be key topics being discussed by significant artists/researchers about the research area. Then researchers could describe a) the key research aspects underlying their work, and possibly, b) what further questions remain to be explored.

For example:

In Their Name is a 26 minute documentary in the tradition of Holocaust testimony such as Resnais' Night and Fog (1956) and Claude Lanzmann's Shoah (1985). Inspiration was drawn from the Academy Award winning Colette (2021) featuring an encounter between the French Resistance and a young history student. Filmmaker Peter Hegedus and a 92-year-old Jewish Australian Ethel Davis uncover the story behind an atrocity photography from 1941 depicting a group of women and a 10-year-old girl named Sorella before their execution. They were among 3640 Latvian Jewish women and children massacred by Nazi troops and collaborators. Peter Hegedus creates a 360 immersive experience from the photograph with the help of Ethel whose family perished in the same massacre.

ii)   Research Contribution:

In this section, researchers should describe their role in the development of the work and how this work contributed to greater understanding of the research area. Primarily, what does the new knowledge look like in this work? To do this, researchers should state the research aim, methodology, approach, and contribution to the respective arts discipline.

For example:

This video represents a visually and aurally rich exploration of an important Norman Creek industry that is almost entirely missing from the local histories of the suburbs in which the boat building occurred. It adds considerable historical context, biographical and industrial process detail to the coverage of this history in Harper (2009)'s 'Classic Moreton Bay Cruisers' and Helen Gregory's (2003) 'The Brisbane River Story – Meanders through Time'. It links this maritime history to broader social and ecological histories of the environment, and to knowledge of this Brisbane industry and to specific histories of working in wood.

iii)   Research Significance:

In this section, researchers should describe the significance of the work by highlighting existing reactions and potential influences of the output. Evidence of peer review should be included (such as mainstream or specialist media coverage or editorial board reviews). It could also be important to include where the work was shown and evidence of audience/viewing numbers. Evidence of any revenue generated, invitations such as keynote addresses, or references to it in any policy documents are also ways of showing research significance.

For example:

Lilium is a work of media architecture that reflects on the lifecycle of cities whilst contributing an aestheticized overlay as part of urban rejuvenation. It was shown at Big City Lights Festival on the Gold Coast, delivered by Placemakers Gold Coast from the 7th-10th of July and funded by the Australian Federal Government's RISE initiative. BCL was widely publicised and distributed through digital networks and social media as an event 'that will transform the city's everyday urban spaces' (Queensland 2022). The festival outcomes report detailed a total of 15,074 attendees, a social media reach of 304,745 and an economic impact of $1,340,000.