Supitsara Kietsuntisuk 2008: Information Framework for Research Competency Measurement. Master of Science (Information Technology), Major Field: Information Technology, Department of Computer Engineering. Thesis Advisor: Associate Professor Punpiti Piamsa-nga, D.Sc. 72 pages.

Research competency is one of the most critical measurements of any research or academic institutions as part of the quality assurance framework. There are many agencies that conduct their own independent—and mostly overlapping—assessments of research competency of the public universities, creating a chaos of redundant requests of the same raw data from research units. To compound the problem, the failure to take into account the vision and mission of the institutes and the failure to "normalize" the differences in established reputation, prior resources, and manpower further manufactures an unfair advantage for certain institutes and creates the adverse effect of encouraging the superior institutes to "slacken the pace" and just maintaining the superiority gap, surprisingly as well as discouraging lesser institutes from trying to catch up through the creation of an "unattainable distance" to overtake. This research proposes a framework that takes into account the disparities in size, prior reputations, underlying philosophy, strategic direction, and growth of the institutes. The framework requires the formal process of clarifying the rationale behind choosing each and every indicator as the metrics, as well as the relative weighting matrix among them. Combined with the proposed changes in direction of the data requests, it is hopeful that we can create a more meaningful set of metrics that better elucidated fairly the competency of research institutes.

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