

RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

## VABB @ Ghent University

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# WHAT IS VABB?

VABB = Bibliography of peer reviewed academic publications from the Flemish universities in the Social Sciences & Humanities

Journal articles

Books

Book chapters

Conference proceedings

= Initiative of the Flemish government in 2010 in order to increase the visibility of academic output in the social sciences & humanities and to include this output in the research funding allocation model

Coordination: ECOOM – University of Antwerp

Support: VLIR (Flemish rector's conference)

Supervision: Authoritative Panel (“gezaghebbend panel”) with representatives from each of the Flemish universities



DARE  
TO THINK



## VABB at Ghent University

# WHAT DID WE HAVE BEFORE VABB?

Ghent University has always encouraged its researchers to disseminate their results to colleague-researchers in a way that best fits their research field and their own career.

Until the arrival of VABB, Ghent University used its own “A2-list” to identify the best quality journals for publishing research results in the social sciences and humanities. This list was designed & updated by the Research Council, and acted as a guideline for “quality output” in research evaluations, project evaluations, etc.

As a result at Ghent University, we probably had different expectations of VABB than perhaps most other universities

In addition, Ghent University has had a strong tradition of metrics-based incentives to encourage research performance.

# METRICS-BASED EVALUATION AT GHENT UNIVERSITY?

## Central university incentives:

- 01/2002 – 01/2016: PhD bonus for supervisors, with publication criteria for completed PhD research.
- 2007 – 2016: Interfaculty allocation model with metrics-based criteria for research component (PhD theses, publications, citations, and a gradual replacement of old A2-list by new VABB-list)
- **Research Council:** publication list with special status for VABB-registered publications – adopted with flexibility
- **Academic recruitment:** generally NOT used in order not to disadvantage international applicants
- **Academic promotion (“gepersonaliseerde doelstellingen”):** publication metrics have been a key component in the career track model... which is currently being revised entirely

## Faculty incentives:

- Not always known centrally what goes on within faculties, but we have some information...
- “gepersonaliseerde doelstellingen”: in some faculties overly quantified implementation model and far from “personalised”
- Internal allocation models

# CURRENT SITUATION AT GHENT UNIVERSITY

Principles for the Evaluation of Research:

<http://www.ugent.be/en/research/research-evaluation.htm>

= Promotion of holistic approach & sensible use of metrics

= starting point for a wide range of implementations (revision faculty allocation model, revision academic promotion model,...)

But some problems remain:

- trickle—down effect of national model cannot be entirely ignored
- VABB is focused on quantity, not quality, which sends the wrong signal to the research community

Ghent University hopes to contribute to further improvements in this area.

# Timeline for a 2016-publication

Ideal situation: a 2016-publication is included in VABB  
in 2018

Anniek Toye, Bibliometrics Advisor

	AUTHOR	UG BIBLIO REVIEWER	UG LIBRARY	ECOOM UA	SUBPANELS	PUBLISHER	GEWU	UG RESEARCH COORDINATION	GP
2016	*	*							
2017	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*
2018	*			*	*			*	*
2019				*				*	*

Until a publication is included in VABB, a lot of actions are needed.  
Each action has to be implemented carefully.

This timetable shows the actors for a 2016-publication:

- Author
- UG biblio reviewer (Griet Devolder, Peter Reyniers)
- UG library (Nicolas Steenlant)
- ECOOM UA
- VABB Subpanels
- Publisher = only Flemish publishers who are member of GEWU
- [GEWU](#) = Groep Educatieve en Wetenschappelijk uitgevers
- UG research coordination (Anniek Toye)
- VABB GP



## UGENT REPRESENTATIVES IN THE VABB-SUBPANELS

Subpanel	UG
Wijsbegeerte, theologie	
Taalkunde	Sonia Vandepitte, Klaas Willems
Letterkunde	Günther Martens, Marysa Demoor
Kunstgeschiedenis, architectuur en kunsten	Bart Vandenabeele
Geschiedenis en archeologie	Frank Vermeulen, Eric Vanhaute
Psychologie, pedagogie en didactiek	Ann Buysse, Paul Smeyers
Rechtswetenschappen en Notariaat	Michel Tison, Hans De Wulf
Criminologie	Tom Van der Beken
Economie, handelswetenschappen en bedrijfskunde	Adelien Decramer
Politieke wetenschappen	Jan Orbie
Sociologie	Ronan Van Rossem
Communicatiewetenschappen	
Humane wetenschappen algemeen; Sociale wetenschappen algemeen; Andere	Marysa Demoor (Bureau GP)

## 2016: ACTIONS

	AUTHOR	UG BIBLIO REVIEWER	UG LIBRARY	ECOOM UA	SUBPANELS	PUBLISHER	GEWU	UG RESEARCH COORDINATION	GP
2016	*	*							
2017	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*
2018	*			*	*			*	*
2019								*	*

- 2016-publication: the author enters the record in the Academic Bibliography (biblio).
- The biblio-reviewers verify the record, and return incomplete records.
- If incomplete, the author completes the record, and submits again to biblio ('make public').

## 2016: POTENTIAL PROBLEMS

	AUTHOR	UG BIBLIO REVIEWER	UG LIBRARY	ECOOM UA	SUBPANELS	PUBLISHER	GEWU	UG RESEARCH COORDINATION	GP
2016	*	*							
2017	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*
2018	*			*	*			*	*
2019				*				*	*

Possible problems when entering information in Biblio:

- The author forgets to submit the record to the reviewers: the records remains 'private'
- No ISBN, ISSN, pages or article number
- No UGent-authors identified
- No department added
- No book-series info added

## 2017: ACTIONS

	AUTHOR	UG BIBLIO REVIEWER	UG LIBRARY	ECOOM UA	SUBPANELS	PUBLISHER	GEWU	UG RESEARCH COORDINATION	GP
2016	*	*							
2017	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*
2018	*			*	*			*	*
2019				*				*	*

- Library launches a call to verify and complement 2015-2016 publications in biblio
- Author completes biblio
- Library sends 2015 (2nd chance) & 2016 (1st chance) UG-records to VABB (ECOOM UA)
- ECOOM UA identifies new journal titles & publishers for review by the subpanels
- The subpanels evaluate the new journals
- GPRC-books: the publisher informs GEWU
- GPRC-books: GEWU sends the list of GPRC-books to ECOOM-UA
- GPRC-books: GP requests peer review files from some of the publishers (sample)

# 2017: POTENTIAL PROBLEMS

	AUTHOR	UG BIBLIO REVIEWER	UG LIBRARY	ECOOM UA	SUBPANELS	PUBLISHER	GEWU	UG RESEARCH COORDINATION	GP
2016	*	*							
2017	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*
2018	*			*	*			*	*
2019				*				*	*

- The author does not enter the publication in biblio
- The author enters the publication in biblio too late
- Private records (not yet “made public”) are not sent to VABB
- Records without SSH department/author are not sent to VABB
- Journals without ISSN are not evaluated by the subpanels
- GPRC: The publisher does not inform GEWU about a GPRC-book
- GPRC: GEWU does not include a GPRC-book on the list for ECOOM-UA
- GPRC: The publisher does not have an (adequate) peer review file for the GP

# 2018: ACTIONS

	AUTHOR	UG BIBLIO REVIEWER	UG LIBRARY	ECOOM UA	SUBPANELS	PUBLISHER	GEWU	UG RESEARCH COORDINATION	GP
2016	*	*							
2017	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*
2018	*			*	*			*	*
2019				*				*	*

- The subpanels/GP inform ECOOM-UA about the journal evaluation
- March-April
  - ECOOM UA provides UG-RC with the preliminary VABB-results
  - UG-RC can add extra information e.g. pages (providing evidence)
- June:
  - ECOOM UA launches new version of VABB, including publications until 2016
  - UG-Library adds the new VABB-info in biblio
- Summer: Research coordination emails the researchers with a request to verify the VABB-records and to provide evidence of peer review for wrongful omissions of publications
- October: Research coordination submits the appeal to the GP
- GP discusses the appeals

## 2018: POTENTIAL PROBLEMS

	AUTHOR	UG BIBLIO REVIEWER	UG LIBRARY	ECOOM UA	SUBPANELS	PUBLISHER	GEWU	UG RESEARCH COORDINATION	GP
2016	*	*							
2017	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*
2018	*			*	*			*	*
2019				*				*	*

- Appeal: Authors don't respond to the request to verify their peer reviewed publications
- Appeal: Authors respond, but don't have the peer review evidence (any more)

# 2019: ACTIONS

	AUTHOR	UG BIBLIO REVIEWER	UG LIBRARY	ECOOM UA	SUBPANELS	PUBLISHER	GEWU	UG RESEARCH COORDINATION	GP
2016	*	*							
2017	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*
2018	*			*	*			*	*
2019				*				*	*

March:

- the GP informs UG-RC about the result of the appeal
- UG-RC informs the authors about the result of the appeal

June: the positive results of the appeal are included in VABB-2019



Thank you for your attention!



[www.ugent.be/en/research](http://www.ugent.be/en/research)



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