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**Abstract**

A system research assessment was developed and implemented in Hong Kong during the period from 1991 to 1994 as an input to the assessment of the public recurrent funding allocations of the territory's higher education institutions and as an extension of the University Grants Committee's other quality assurance activities. Refinements were subsequently introduced for the next two assessment exercises in 1996 and 1999. This paper describes the evolution of the process, identifies some significant differences from that in the UK on which it was modelled, and evaluates the 1999 research assessment exercise, in particular the application in that context of the Carnegie Foundation's definitions of research and research-related scholarly activities, viz. the scholarships of "discovery, integration, application and teaching". (HRK / Abstract übernommen)