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The Whiteside Literature Review Standard (WLRS) v2.0

A Constitutional Framework for Governing Scholarly Evidence as Permanent Intellectual Assets

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Companion to WGRS-WP-2026-001 · Version 1.0 · July 2026

WHAT THIS PRESENTATION COVERS

The publication behind this summary

WLRS v2.0 is set out in a working paper in the Whiteside Research Governance Series. This deck summarises that document for an executive audience.

The standard

WLRS v2.0 — the constitutional standard for how scholarly evidence is acquired, appraised, preserved, and reused.

The constitution

WGRS-WP-2026-001 — the full working paper presenting the standard. Version 1.0, 2026.

This companion

WGRS-WP-2026-001-ES — the executive summary this presentation is drawn from.

STATUS

Independently published governance document. Circulated for scholarly comment. **Not peer reviewed.**

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Citation managers organise. They do not govern.

Researchers routinely manage hundreds or thousands of journal articles, books, government reports, datasets, annotations, AI conversations, and manuscript drafts across a single research program.

Citation managers organise bibliographic records well. What they rarely provide is a governance mechanism — a defined way to preserve, evaluate, and systematically reuse that evidence across multiple projects and over years.

WLRS proposes that governance layer. It treats every foundational source as a permanent intellectual asset rather than a citation created for one manuscript and then retired.

ORGANISED

Author, title, year, DOI.
Sorted, tagged, searchable.
Retrieved when needed.

GOVERNED

Appraised once, to a standard.
Traceable from page to claim.
Versioned, re-engaged, reused.

Six persistent governance challenges

Traditional practice optimises for finishing one publication rather than stewarding evidence over a career. As a program expands, the same failures recur.

Rediscovery

Foundational sources are found again rather than systematically maintained.

Fragmentation

Reviews scatter across multiple software platforms and storage systems.

Disconnection

Notes, annotations, and AI-assisted conversations detach from their sources.

Attrition

Valuable intellectual work is lost in the gaps between projects.

Shallow memory

Citation libraries preserve references but not institutional knowledge.

Ungoverned AI

AI-assisted workflows frequently lack traceability and accountability.

These limitations reduce efficiency, increase duplicated effort, and diminish the long-term value of the work.

THE DISTINCTION IN ONE LINE

Current literature review methods emphasize finding sources.

WLRS instead emphasizes governing them.

TRADITIONAL METHODS

Sources are consumed, quoted, and retired.

WLRS

Sources become permanent intellectual assets, processed once and reused across multiple projects.

What governed evidence offers an institution

These are structured possibilities rather than measured outcomes. The framework has not yet been evaluated empirically — I will return to that.

Research integrity

Auditable evidence chains may strengthen the defensibility of scholarly claims.

Doctoral organisation

Structured governance may reduce delays caused by fragmented literature records.

Faculty productivity

Reusable evidence assets may reduce repeated processing across related projects.

AI governance

Verification and traceability requirements help preserve human accountability.

Institutional memory

Governed assets can support continuity beyond one manuscript or one researcher.

Four principles govern the standard

1

Permanent Intellectual Assets

Sources are durable scholarly assets, not temporary citations — supporting dissertation, articles, conferences, books, teaching, and public scholarship without re-processing.

2

Evidence Before Output

Knowledge capture precedes publication. Outputs emerge from a governed evidence base, so claims trace back to verified source quotations.

3

Structured Reuse

One evidence package — quotations, connections, appraisals, derivative outputs — serves future work without recreating notes.

4

Living Scholarship

Sources are living documents. As interpretations evolve, notes update through a Re-engagement Log that preserves chronological development.

Supporting requirement — Tool Independence. Governance requirements are expressed in platform-neutral terms, so the standard survives changes of software and AI platform.

The Foundational Gate

Not every source merits full processing. A two-stage gate sorts sources into Tier A (full) and Tier B (lite).

STAGE 1 — OBJECTIVE SCORE

Considered for Tier A if it meets at least four criteria:

- Supports a major theoretical construct
- Cited three or more times in a major work
- Cross-project relevance
- Generates or shapes a conceptual framework
- Appears in conference presentations
- Supports dissertation arguments
- Likely to be reused in future books
- Materially changes the researcher's thinking

STAGE 2 — CONSTITUTIONAL OVERRIDE

*If this source disappeared tomorrow,
would one or more of the researcher's
major arguments materially weaken?*

An affirmative answer classifies the source as Tier A regardless of its objective score.

Scholarly judgment remains the deciding factor.

INNOVATION TWO

The Citation Hub Architecture

A Tier A source is processed into thirteen notes, each with a distinct governance function. Grouped here for executive readability.

EVIDENCE CAPTURE

C.01 Executive Summary and Evidence Register
C.02 Key Quotations

RESEARCH INTEGRATION

C.03 Program Connections
C.05 Dissertation Connections · C.10 Cross-References

SCHOLARLY INTERROGATION

C.04 Question Bank · C.09 Critical Appraisal
C.06 AI-Assisted Source Dialogue

KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION

C.07 Podcast Asset
C.12 Teaching and Ministry Applications

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

C.08 Future Research Ideas
C.11 Research Gaps

TRACEABILITY

C.13 Citation Map

Every note from C.07 onward is paired with a stored generation prompt. The asset can be regenerated or checked on a future AI platform — which is what makes the workflow auditable rather than merely convenient.

The Research Maturity Model

Every source carries a maturity status, and that status governs what it may be used for.

LEVEL	STATUS	DESCRIPTION	PERMITTED OUTPUTS
L0	Acquired	Bibliographic record created	None
L1	Verified	Metadata and source validated	None
L2	Core Processed	MVP fields complete	Internal drafting only
L3	Integrated	All core fields complete, connected to projects	Dissertation and journal writing
L4	Synthesized	Incorporated into manuscripts or presentations	Conference presentation
L5	Knowledge Translation	Teaching, podcast, video, or public scholarship	Podcast, YouTube, Executive Education
L6	Re-engaged	Revisited and reinterpreted after publication	Mature constitutional source

RI-001 reached L3. Highlighted above.

CANONICAL CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT

The principal scholarly contribution of WLRS is the reconceptualization of foundational evidence as a governed, reusable, version-controlled intellectual asset rather than a disposable citation tied to a single manuscript.

WLRS operationalizes this contribution through four constitutional principles, a two-stage Foundational Gate, a thirteen-part Citation Hub Architecture, an Executive Summary Evidence Register, a Research Maturity Model, and living-scholarship mechanisms.

This wording is fixed. It appears without alteration across every platform on which the standard is published.

A five-layer governance architecture

WLRS is the first of five planned standards. The four companions are in preparation — they have not been released or reviewed.

Knowledge Creation	WLRS + ASIP	Evidence acquisition, processing, and AI-assisted interrogation
Knowledge Quality	WSAS	Citation integrity, verification, and counterargument analysis
Knowledge Control	WRVCS	Version history, release management, and archival preservation
Knowledge Stewardship	WEAGS	Asset lifecycle, maturity, derivative outputs, and retirement
Knowledge Integration	Synthesis	Coordinated operation of all standards — planned publication

Only the gold layer exists today. Everything below it is intended architecture, not delivered capability.

Where this is intended to be used

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

- Doctoral education and dissertation development
- Faculty research programs
- Institutional research offices
- Think tanks and policy organisations
- Government research agencies
- Independent scholars
- AI-assisted research workflows
- Knowledge management in higher education

WHO SHOULD READ IT

Doctoral researchers structuring reviews, building cumulative capacity

Faculty managing programs, supervising candidates

Research directors institutional governance of evidence

University libraries evidence stewardship infrastructure

Research institutes standardising knowledge management

Independent scholars continuity across projects

Government offices traceability and accountability

AI governance researchers frameworks for AI-assisted scholarship

What this does not yet demonstrate

1

reference implementation

Chapter 1 of Thomas Groome's *Sharing Faith* (1991), producing 26 intellectual assets across four production levels.

Quotation verification against the original volume remains in progress.

No independent inter-rater reliability assessment has been conducted.

Processing efficiency has not been compared with alternative methods.

The four companion standards remain proposals, not validated standards.

Treat WLRS as a single-implementation pilot, not an operational or generalizable standard, until further reference implementations are complete.

A stress test against a second chapter is under way. Results, and any resulting refinements, are intended for version 1.1.

The publication ecosystem

The standard is supported by an integrated scholarly communication ecosystem, with each component labelled by its actual status.

AVAILABLE NOW

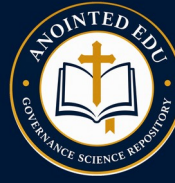
- Full constitutional publication
- Executive Summary
- Author overview video
- Cinematic presentation
- Podcast discussions
- Presentation slide deck
- Official publication website
- ORCID, Wikidata, Google Scholar

IN DEVELOPMENT

- AI Companion — prompts, revision history, editorial decisions
- Scholarly Citation Package — APA, BibTeX, RIS, EndNote, Zotero, CSL
- Evidence Package — source verification and quotation audit
- Publication analytics and search optimisation

FUTURE OR CONDITIONAL

- DOI assignment, if obtained
- SSRN repository record for this publication, following acceptance if applicable



Where to find the work

Comments, critiques, and collaborative reference implementations are welcomed as the standard undergoes further testing.



PUBLICATION

jermainewhiteside.com



COLLECTION

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GOOGLE SCHOLAR

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