



UNIVERSITY  
OF SOUTHERN  
QUEENSLAND  
AUSTRALIA

# Assessing the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals in academic libraries

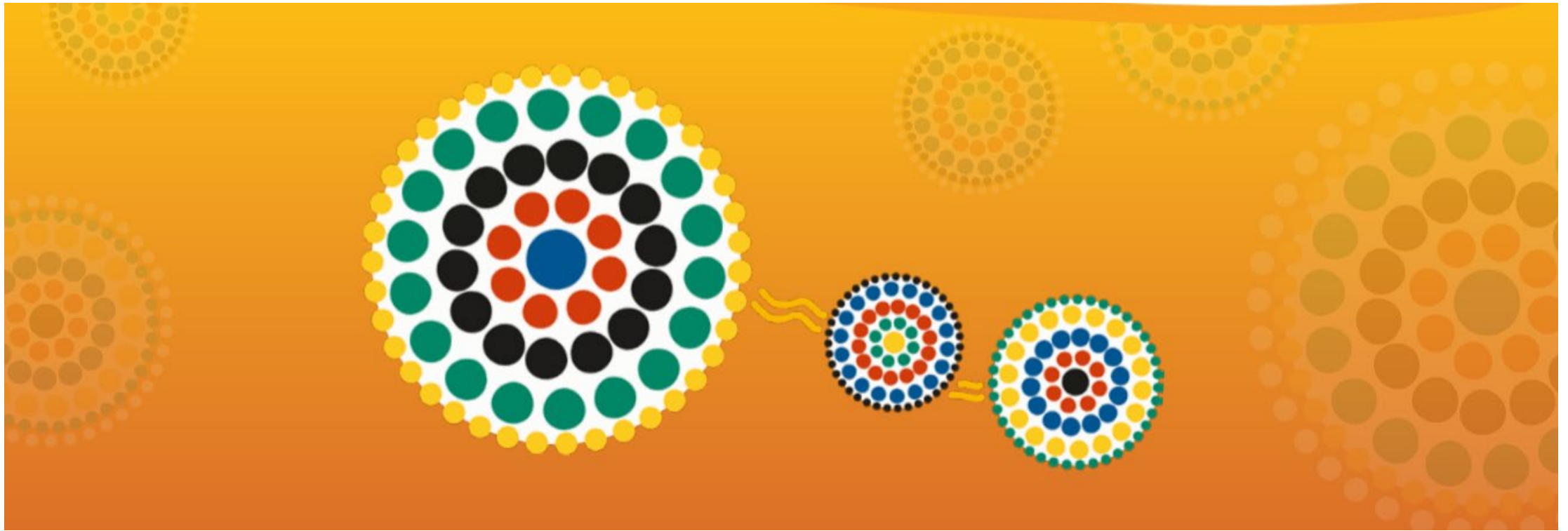
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#LAC20

# Acknowledgement of Country

*We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet today & pay respect to Elders past, present and future.*



# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

**1** NO POVERTY



**2** ZERO HUNGER



**3** GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



**4** QUALITY EDUCATION



**5** GENDER EQUALITY




**6** CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



**7** AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



**8** DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



**9** INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



**10** REDUCED INEQUALITIES



**11** SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



**12** RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



**13** CLIMATE ACTION



**14** LIFE BELOW WATER



**15** LIFE ON LAND



**16** PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



**17** PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS





# 5 steps to deepen engagement with the Sustainable Development Goals

1. Map what is already being done.
2. Build internal capacity & ownership of the SDGs.
3. Identify priorities, opportunities & gaps.
4. Integrate, implement & embed the SDGs within university strategies, policies & plans.
5. Monitor, evaluate and communicate actions on the SDGs.

(Sustainable Development Solutions Network Australia/Pacific, 2017)

# Existing library assessment models for the SDGs

(Pinto & Ochoa, 2018)

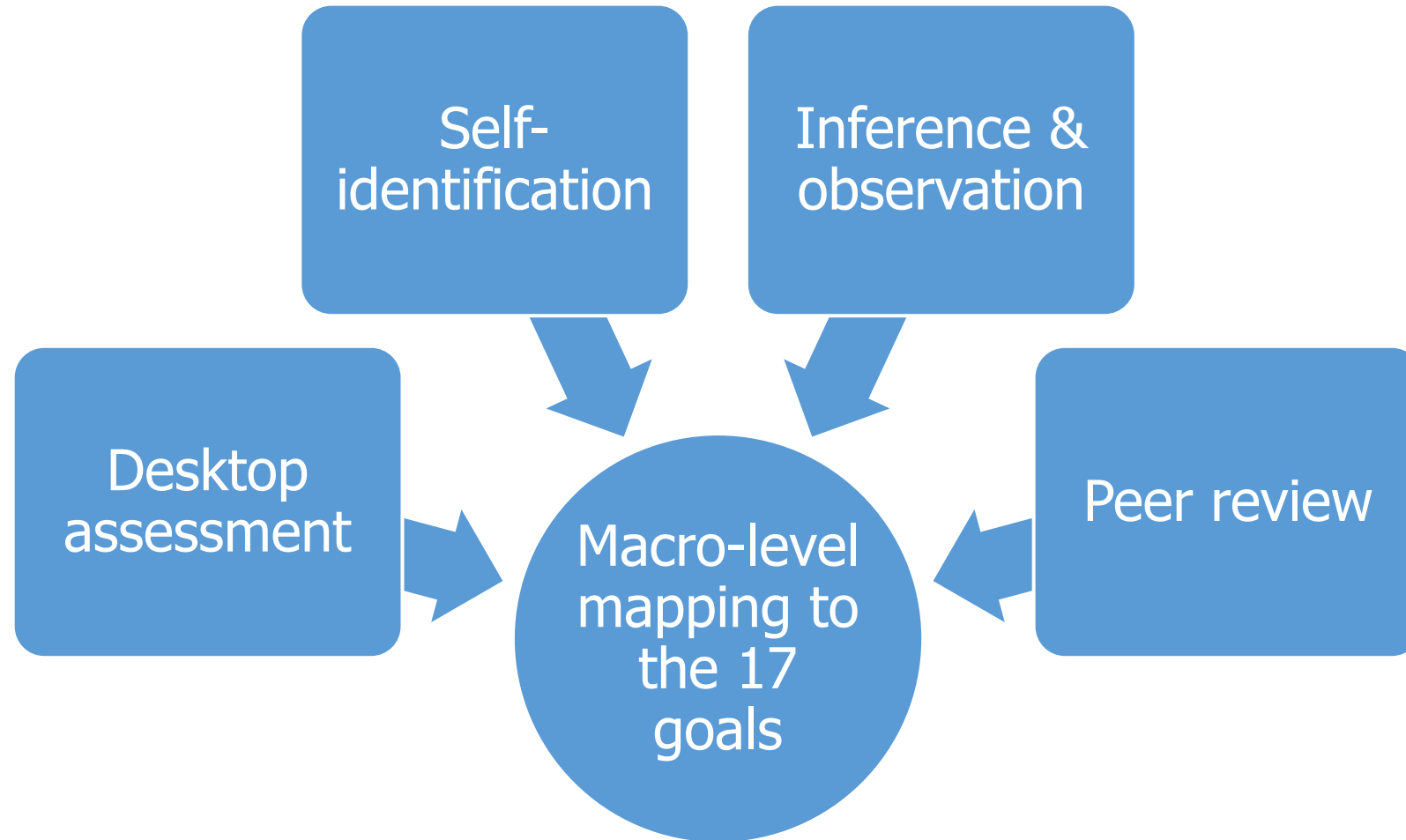
Level 1	Can describe the project and its importance to the community and the SDGs.
Level 2	Can capture data that shows positive change (alignment) but cannot confirm that it caused this change.
Level 3	Can demonstrate causality between results and alignment dimensions of the SDGs.
Level 4	Evidence is confirmed by independent evaluators. Can demonstrate replication potential in other libraries.
Level 5	Contributions are recognised by relevant national or international entities in the framework of the 2030 Agenda.



## USQ Library

- Regional university with 3 campuses in the south-east corner of Queensland, Australia
- 27,000+ FTE student load
- 75% of students study online (pre-COVID)
- 3 campus libraries; 64 FTE library staff

# Mapping the SDGs at USQ Library



# Findings



Academic libraries make a difference to the health and well-being of their clients. As educators of the next generation of health care professionals, USQ Library provides access to evidence-based health information and research.

As a provider of safe spaces on campus where students can work and study, regardless of their abilities or challenges, USQ Library supports the well-being of students throughout their learning journey.

Mental Health

## Caring Science Framework

USQ Library's Liaison Librarian and Learning Advisor for the Health Sciences have adopted Watson's Caring Science framework to teach academic writing and APA referencing skills to nursing students. By bringing a compassionate approach to online education, Library staff cultivated a connected and compassionate way of supporting students' wellbeing while instructing and coaching students identified as being at risk.



Access to inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning opportunities underpins the success of all 17 Sustainable Development Goals. By actively contributing to the development and delivery of quality higher education through support for learning, teaching and research, academic libraries transform the lives of individuals, families, communities and the nation (CAUL, 2019)

USQ Library deploys learning physical and online environments that are student-centred, authentic, cooperative and engaging and supported by an extended range of high quality resources, facilities and technologies. We are committed to providing a supportive, connected and intuitive experience that enables:

- students to develop the confidence, resilience and skills required to reach their potential as engaged, informed and productive citizens, and
- staff to access the tools, supports and systems required to reach their potential as world-class teachers, researchers and professionals.

## Open Textbooks

USQ Library aims to increase the number of Open Textbooks used in first year USQ courses and courses undertaken by incarcerated students.

USQ is committed to increasing the use of Open textbooks in first year courses. Three Open Textbooks have been published on the Pressbook platform with more in development. Open textbooks have been shown to significantly reduce the costs associated with tertiary education for students.

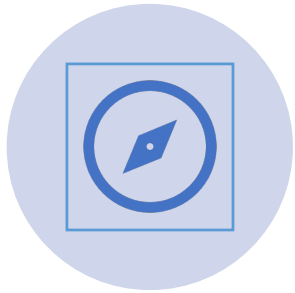


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# Benefits of engaging with the SDGs for library assessment



Positioned the academic library within a broad local and global context.



Developed staff skills in using statistics and stories approaches to reporting.



Raised awareness of the SDGs across the library and university.

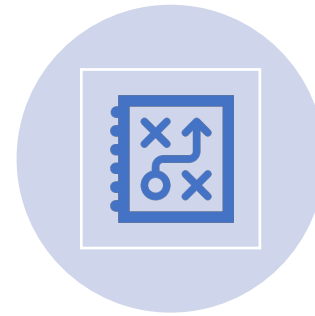


Resonated personally with staff's values – positive motivation.

# Challenges of engaging with the SDGs for library assessment



Difficult to map information about activities and interventions related to the SDGs in libraries.



Identifying indicators and metrics is not always straight forward.



National benchmarks not yet established for Australian academic libraries.



Need to avoid using the SDGs as a checklist.

# Revisiting the 5 steps to engagement with the SDGs

Map what is already being done.	2019 and 2020
Build internal capacity & ownership of the SDGs.	2019 and 2020
Identify priorities, opportunities & gaps.	Focus for 2021
Integrate, implement & embed the SDGs within strategies, policies & plans.	At Library level in 2021
Monitor, evaluate and communicate actions on the SDGs.	Focus for 2021



# Thank you

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