



# Sustaining Repositories

newsletter of the APSR Project

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## ■ **"The Successful Repository"**

APSR and the University of Queensland will host a one day forum at the Customs House in Brisbane on June 29, in collaboration with QULOC and RUBRIC.

Setting up an institutional repository is the easy part; keeping it going, in the long term, year after year, is hard. It's also not cheap. While repositories can be set up initially using existing infrastructure, they cannot be maintained successfully without real commitment from their home institutions, backed up by ongoing funding.

Most institutions now have a solid grasp of the theory of open access repositories, but what's the reality? What do they really cost? Can it be demonstrated that they give value for money? What are the successful business models? What are the compelling arguments in favour of building one that will attract ever-scarcer funds?

Among the many speakers who will answer these questions will be Susan Gibbons, Assistant Dean, Public Services & Collection Development, University of Rochester, and John Houghton, Professorial Fellow in Strategic Economic Studies at Victoria University.

For further details of this and other forthcoming APSR events, visit the [APSR website](http://www.apsr.edu.au).

Susan Gibbons will also be presenting a public lecture on the morning of Friday, June 30, to be entitled "Redefining Academic Librarianship for the Net Generation". This will be held at the University of Queensland.

## ■ **"Long Term Repositories: Taking the Shock Out of the Future"**

APSR and the National Library of Australia will present a two-day forum on PREMIS Preservation Metadata and Trusted Digital Repositories Methodology, August 31 and September 1, 2006. It will be held at the National Library of Australia in Canberra.

Day One will be a practical exploration of the issues associated with the implementation of a preservation metadata scheme based on the PREMIS work. Discussion will include practical aspects of preservation life-cycle management, repository functionality and architecture, tools and technologies to support data acquisition, automation and workflows.

Day Two will consider the RLG-NARA Audit Checklist for Certifying Digital Repositories. It will provide an introduction to the RLG-NARA work, and will examine practical ways in which the checklist can be implemented. It will also examine and discuss the setting of acceptance levels and consider the certification approach discussed.

International speakers will include Robin Dale, Taskforce Co-Chair and Project Officer for the Digital Repository Certification Project, RLG-NARA and Rebecca Gunther, Senior Networking and Standards Specialist at the Library of Congress Network Development and MARC Standards Office.

## ■ APSR at DSpace Federation Governance Meeting

Adrian Burton attended the DSpace Federation Governance Advisory Board meeting on March 30-31 in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The governance board was convened to draft a recommendation for governance and funding mechanisms to advance the DSpace community and ensure that the technology platform remains sound. At the meeting, the board:

- Drafted a statement of mission
- Made a decision to form an independent foundation and initiated a planning process to accomplish that end
- Formed an interim steering committee chaired by Chris Rusbridge (Director, Digital Curation Centre, UK)
- Addressed the need for a technical working group.

## ■ University of Technology, Sydney, joins APSR

The number of associate partners of APSR has grown again with the addition of the University of Technology, Sydney. As part of the APSR Test Bed Program, APSR is running a project to integrate journal publication systems with repository environments. This will include work with the DSpace repository and journal publishing systems such as Open Journal Software (OJS) and DPubs as well as print on demand ePress services. APSR has expertise in DSpace, and UTS with the Open Journal Software, so the partnership provides an opportunity for collaboration on integration of the two. As an APSR associate partner, UTS will enjoy "close colleague" relations with the other APSR partners.

## ■ Open Repositories 2007

Such was the success of *Open Repositories 2006* in Sydney earlier this year that the conference will be held again in 2007 and in 2008. Texas A&M University Libraries and The University of Texas Libraries are together hosting the Second International Conference on Open Repositories from January 23 to 26, 2007 in San Antonio, Texas. *Open Repositories 2007* will continue the successful format of Open User Group meetings for DSpace, Fedora and EPrints, followed by general conference sessions that cover cross-cutting and overarching issues. APSR is pleased to be represented on the Steering Committee. For further information, see <http://openrepositories.org>.

## ■ JISC visit to APSR

On March 1, a delegation from JISC, together with staff of DEST, attended a presentation by Adrian Burton, Ross Coleman, Peter Raftos and Markus Buchhorn about APSR, its test beds and projects. This was followed by an animated discussion about topics of mutual interest including the possibility of future collaboration.

The delegation consisted of Rachel Bruce (JISC Programme Director, Information Environment), Tish Roberts (JISC Programme Manager, e-Framework), Sarah Porter (Head, JISC Development Group), Margot Bell (DEST), Clare McLaughlin (DEST), Cameron Foster (DEST), Professor Neil McLean and Kerry Blinco.

The presentation can be viewed at <http://www.apsr.edu.au/publications/presentations.html>.

## ■ APSR presents to DEST meeting

Ross Coleman and Margaret Henty represented APSR at a meeting held by DEST on March 30 for all the FRODO and MERRI projects. The purpose of the meeting was defined by DEST as being:

- To learn more about the accomplishments and current status of your projects and explore further opportunities for collaboration;
- To discuss emerging challenges and opportunities in research information infrastructure.

The presentation can be viewed at <http://www.apsr.edu.au/publications/presentations.html>.

## ■ Establishing a Digital Repository Service Workshops

The last of the workshop series, *Establishing a Digital Repository Service*, will be held in Hobart on 4 May. The continued popularity of the workshop is reflected in the registration numbers which are expected to be in excess of sixty. The morning workshop, directed primarily to those managing repositories, will be followed by an afternoon seminar directed primarily to academic staff.

The workshop was held most recently at Charles Darwin University on April 11 when 25 people attended.

APSR is grateful to all those universities which have hosted this event on its behalf. Without them, it would not have been possible to reach such wide audiences and make so many contacts.

## News from the partners

### *The Australian National University*

Scott Yeadon participated in a DSpace 1.4 alpha Test-a-thon over 21 and 22 March. This exercise was a global testing event carried out by members of the DSpace community to run the alpha release of DSpace 1.4 through its paces. A test server was set up by the University of Toronto and participants could communicate real-time using an IRC (Internet Relay Chat) channel. The DSpace Wiki was used to log all bugs found. The exercise was a resounding success with around 40 testers taking part, over 50 bugs being discovered and many patches contributed to fix the bugs. Scott has been working on fixing many of the bugs in support of a beta release, which is likely to be available by the end of April/early May. A final stable release will follow after a short testing period.

The ANU has also been progressing testing of Manakin, the DSpace XML user interface framework currently in development by Texas A&M University Libraries. The ANU Library's three ContentDM collections have been migrated to a DSpace development environment and their ContentDM look-and-feel has been reproduced under Manakin. Further information and some example links (intermittent availability) can be found on the APSR blog. The exercise has been so successful, we are planning to move these collections along with Manakin into production after the release of DSpace 1.4. Contact: [Scott.Yeadon@anu.edu.au](mailto:Scott.Yeadon@anu.edu.au).

### *The University of Queensland*



At UQ, we have continued to develop the Fez software which now underpins our institutional repository, UQ eSpace (<http://espace.library.uq.edu.au/>). Data entry for the local research quality assessment exercise has almost come to an end. The exercise was useful for Fez testing and development. Standard document types were modified to include special reporting fields required for the exercise. This enabled us to demonstrate the adaptability of Fez for different purposes.

A digitised collection of World War One photographs has been ingested, and will be show-cased for Anzac Day. As part of its workflow, Fez now manages archival to web-format data stream conversion for images automatically, resulting in four image versions - thumbnail, preview, Web and archival.

This makes image ingest extremely easy and quick as the system creates the necessary display versions such as thumbnails and previews from the archival version. Preservation metadata for the image is also created at the same time and is housed alongside the object. Security for repository objects at the most granular level can now be managed by Fez-ACML. In the case of an image, different security rules can apply to different versions of the image. For example, the thumbnail, preview and Web version could be served up to searchers, while the archival version is made available only rarely, for example to specific classes of users. Equally, searchers could be limited to viewing only thumbnails.

Further image collections are being readied for ingest, one of which requires a different metadata schema from standard Dublin Core. Fez is able to apply different metadata schemas to each collection.

A private document collection for an upcoming Library work project has also been created. Contractors on the project at remote locations and Library staff will use UQ eSpace as a central store for project documentation, minutes and working papers. The collection itself will be visible only to project members. Items in the collection will not appear in searches and listings by people other than project staff.

Work is almost complete for the UQ eSpace Suggest feature. Suggest matches terms from a database of 'suggested' terms and names actually built from the repository's contents. When a user begins to type terms into the search box, the repository returns possible matches, and a preview of how many results are likely before the user commits to the query. Searches that would return too many results can thus be pre-modified, saving time and frustration, and improving the accuracy of terms entered.



Contact: Belinda Weaver is on long service leave until 13 June. In her absence, Patrick Jewell (at right) will be in the chair. Contact Patrick on (07) 3365 8281 or via email to [p.jewell@library.uq.edu.au](mailto:p.jewell@library.uq.edu.au) or contact Andrew Bennett [a.bennett@library.uq.edu.au](mailto:a.bennett@library.uq.edu.au).

## **The University of Sydney**

The University of Sydney institutional repository service, the Sydney eScholarship repository, is to be launched on May 5 2006 by Vice Chancellor Professor Gavin Brown and Provost Professor Don Nutbeam. Sydney eScholarship is a set of innovative services initiated by the University Library for the University of Sydney that integrates the sustainable management of digital content with new forms of access and publication.

Sydney eScholarship includes:

- Sydney Digital Library
- Sydney University Press
- Sydney Electronic Text and Image Service (SETIS),
- Sydney eScholarship repository
- Sydney Digital Theses
- Faculty collaborations developing sustainable data repositories meeting discipline-based needs
- Advisory services.



Sydney eScholarship is built upon the Library's recognised expertise in creating, archiving, managing, publishing and providing access to digital content, and implements the digital sustainability principles and standards being developed and advocated by APSR. The repository, provided on a DSpace platform, is already active in archiving material from diverse areas as agriculture, linguistics, social policy, veterinary science, and rare image collections. The service also works in partnership with the University Research Office and will play a role in the management of research material for the HERDC reporting and the RQF.

The Sydney eScholarship repository can be viewed at <http://ses.library.usyd.edu.au/> The photograph reproduced here shows the

last stages of the building of the Sydney Harbour Bridge and comes from the JCC Bradfield Collection of Sydney eScholarship. It was taken on 12 September 1930. <http://ses.library.usyd.edu.au/handle/2123/338>

## **iSpheres middleware case study for ASK-OSS project**

iSpheres middleware developed for discipline-based repositories as part of the University of Sydney APSR test bed program is the subject of a case study through the MERRI funded project ASK-OSS (**A**ustralian **S**ervice for **K**nowledge of **O**pen **S**ource **S**oftware). iSpheres is the third set of open source software associated with APSR to be the a case study for ASK-OSS (the others are Fez and the Digital Scholars Workbench).

## **The University of Melbourne**

The University of Melbourne project has been moving at a steady pace. Audits of eleven research teams are underway. In early March Dr Markus Buchhorn (APAC/ANU) and Mr Paul McNamara (National Project Manager) came to Melbourne to participate in some auditing activities with a number of our research communities. The good will and enthusiasm demonstrated by researchers during this intensive consultation is indicative of the importance our researchers place on the outcomes of this significant investigation.

The Project's Steering Committee had its first meeting in early April. Part of the committee's core business is to finalise the project's Communication Plan. This has been identified as a core strategy for getting the sustainability message out there. A special purpose APSR website is currently being built and will be linked to the national APSR website in the very near future. The project team have also participated in an eResearch Forum and reported on the project's progress to the University Research Committee. In early May we will be conducting a Digital Asset Management (DAM) Focus Session where issues surrounding DAM systems will be discussed among researchers and other interested parties. Contact Anna Shadbolt: [annams@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:annams@unimelb.edu.au)

## Meet the staff of APSR



Regular readers of this column will be aware that there is a small and dedicated team who work to support APSR activities and projects. In this photo you can see some of them.

David Berriman is on the left. David recently came to work for APSR bringing with him a strong background in database management. He is now working on the data sustainability aspects of various projects. Next to David is Fiona Nelson Campell, our administrator par excellence who keeps track of finances and staffing issues.

There's Adrian Burton who is the APSR Project Manager. Adrian came to repositories via a circuitous route which includes the teaching of Hindi and Sanskrit. Margaret Henty is the National Services Program Coordinator, with a background in librarianship at the ANU and National Library.

## Current APSR Projects

Listed below is a full inventory of APSR-funded projects and the institution with primary responsibility for each. Further information about each project can be found on the APSR website at <http://www.apsr.edu.au/currentprojects/>.

### APSR

- CREW - Common Resources for Web-development
- RQF Checklist

### APSR and APAC

- AERES - Australian eResearch Sustainability Survey
- SIERRA - Sustainable Infrastructure for Established Research Repositories

### The Australian National University

- Cocoon Integration with DSpace and log statistics
- Complex Collections Demonstrator
- Journal Publication System: Pilot
- DSpace and Grid Technologies
- Sustainability of Word Processing Documents

### The National Library of Australia

- PRESTA - PREMIS Requirement Statement
- AONS - Automated Obsolescence Notification System
- Preservation Metadata and Testbed Risk Analysis Survey
- SARA - Sustainability and Risk Analysis

### The University of Melbourne

- Sustainable paths for Data-intensive Research Communities

### The University of Queensland

- FEZ: Fedora-based Repository Management System

### The University of Sydney

- FIDAS - Fieldwork Data Sustainability
- SUGAR - Sustainable Guidelines for Australian Repositories
- Interoperability middleware
- Complex publication and sustainability

### The University of Technology, Sydney

- Journal Publication System: Pilot

■ **Around the traps ... Send your suggestions to [Margaret.Henty@apsr.edu.au](mailto:Margaret.Henty@apsr.edu.au)**

### **Conferences and events**

**2006 May 4, *Establishing a Digital Repository Service Workshop*.** University of Tasmania. Contact Di Worth (contact: [Di.Worth@utas.edu.au](mailto:Di.Worth@utas.edu.au)). <http://www.apsr.edu.au/news/index.html>

**2006 June 29, *The Successful Repository*.** Customs House, Brisbane. APSR and the University of Queensland in collaboration with QULOC and RUBRIC. <http://www.apsr.edu.au/news/index.html>

**2006 August 31-September 1, *Long Term Repositories: Taking the Shock Out of the Future: A 2 day Forum on PREMIS Preservation Metadata and Trusted Digital Repositories Methodology*** National Library of Australia, Canberra. <http://www.apsr.edu.au/news/index.html>

**2006 May 31-June 1, *Legal Aspects of e-Repositories and e-Collections*.** University of Warwick [http://www.jisc.ac.uk/index.cfm?name=event\\_legal\\_0506](http://www.jisc.ac.uk/index.cfm?name=event_legal_0506)

**2006 June 7-10, ETD 2006: Unlocking Scholarly Access: ETDs, Institutional Repositories and Creators. 9th International Symposium on Electronic Theses and Dissertations.** , Université Laval, Quebec City Canada <http://www.bibl.ulaval.ca/etd2006>

**2006 June 11-15, Workshop on "Digital Curation & Trusted Repositories: Seeking Success"** To be held in conjunction with the ***Joint Conference on Digital Libraries (JCDL 2006)*** Chapel Hill, NC. <http://sils.unc.edu/events/2006jcdl/digitalcuration.html>

**2006 June 28-30, *Second International Conference on eSocial Science*** Manchester, UK <http://www.ncess.ac.uk/events/conference/>

**2006 July 12-14 ARL/ACRL Institute on Scholarly Communication**, hosted by UCLA, sponsored by The Association for Research Libraries and Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL). Los Angeles, CA <http://www.arl.org/training/institutes/arl-acrl06.html>

**2006 July 26-28, *Interoperability and Institutional Repository Symposium*** sponsored by the Alliance for Innovation in Science & Technology Information Albuquerque, NM. <http://www.aisti.org/events/IR2006/index.php>

**2006 November 21-22, *Digital Data Curation in Practice 2<sup>nd</sup> International Digital Curation Conference 2006***, Glasgow <http://www.dcc.ac.uk/events/dcc-2006/>

**2007 February *Open Repositories 2007. The 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Open Repositories*** San Antonio, Texas. <http://openrepositories.org>

### **Publications**

James Currall and Peter McKinney, [Investing in Value: a Perspective on Digital Preservation](#). *D-Lib Magazine*, 12(4) April 2006.

### **Next issue?**

Be the first to know ... join the APSR Announcements email service at:  
[http://mailman.anu.edu.au/mailman/listinfo/apsr\\_announcements](http://mailman.anu.edu.au/mailman/listinfo/apsr_announcements)

Contributors to this newsletter were Adrian Burton, Ross Coleman, Margaret Henty, Anna Shadbolt, Belinda Weaver and Scott Yeadon.

### **The APSR partners**



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