

---

**In this issue:**

- **APSR gets a rap!**
- **The Fez spread**
- **Sweet report**
- **Helping field researchers**
- **The RQF Explained**
- **APSR is out there**
- **Adapting to the new world**
- **Raising eResearch awareness**
- **Hidden Heroes – Patrick Byrnes**
- **UNESCO**
- **Repository content boost**
- **Staffing news**
- **Shiny and new**
- **Easing into open source**
- **Around the Traps**

---

■ **APSR gets a rap!**

APSR has been recognized by the Prime Minister's Science, Engineering and Innovation Council (PMSEIC) in a newly published report.

The report, *From Data to Wisdom: Pathways to Successful Data Management for Australian Science*, ([http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/science\\_innovation/publications\\_resources/profiles/Presentation\\_Data\\_for\\_Science\\_e.htm](http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/science_innovation/publications_resources/profiles/Presentation_Data_for_Science_e.htm)) gives an overview of current approaches to the management of large amounts of scientific information and data, and investigates the nature of data repositories and libraries.

The Working Group, which included Professors Robin Batterham and Fiona Stanley, amongst others, was brought together in 2006 to examine and advise on directions for managing the vast amounts of data now being generated from scientific research, observational projects, instruments, national and international collaborations, data mining and analysis.

In the report, APSR emerges as a significant player. The Automated Obsolescence Notification System (AONS) project is highlighted as a case study in a section about the rapid changes in software and hardware. The Australian e-Research Sustainability Survey (AERES) report is referred to on several occasions (see <http://www.apsr.edu.au/aeres/index.htm>).

"In particular, the Working Group was impressed with the work of the e-Research Coordinating Committee, the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy and the report of the Australian e-Research Sustainability Survey Project."

The report recommends that Australia develops a national strategic framework for scientific data, a national network of digital repositories, changing the culture of data management, and ensuring data management skills are developed.

■ **Coming up**

What is Chris doing with the stuffed bull?

An APSR mug will be sent to the author of the best (printable) caption for this picture. Suggestions to [contact@apsr.edu.au](mailto:contact@apsr.edu.au) by 15 March. Results in the next newsletter.



Find out on page 4 of this newsletter.

## ■ The Fez spread

Fez+Fedora is moving from strength to strength and is being taken up around the world. Fez programmers at the University of Queensland (UQ) have been gratified by a surge in international interest in the Fez software. Emory University Libraries are building a Fez repository for electronic theses. Indiana University Libraries are also testing Fez+Fedora to see whether to replace their existing DSpace installation. The Colorado Alliance of Research Libraries (<http://www.coalliance.org/>) is using Fez+Fedora for their Alliance Digital Repository. Also in the US, the National Science Digital Library is using Fez+Fedora for their Materials Science Digital Library (<http://matdl.org/repository/index.php>). UQ staff presented a poster session on it (NSDL MatDL: Adding Context to Bridge Materials E-research and E-education) at Open Repositories 2007.

On the domestic front, Fez has been used extensively in UQ research assessment trials, dummy runs for the RQF in 2008. Content models for the Research Quality Framework (RQF) have been developed which can be 'tweaked' when the final data specification is released.

Given that institutions will need to have repositories in place for the electronic delivery of citations and files to assessors as part of the RQF, UQ is offering to smooth their path via different options, including hosted repositories. Hosting will cover training and support, as well as customization, 'badging' and a help line. For institutions who would like to set up and manage their own Fez repository, UQ will offer on-site installation, customisation and training. Enquiries to Andrew Bennett, Executive Manager, Library Technology Service ([a.bennett@library.uq.edu.au](mailto:a.bennett@library.uq.edu.au)).

Belinda Weaver presented Fez to the South Australian DSpace Users' Group at Adelaide University on 20 February. She then led a discussion with staff about data models and implementation issues for the RQF.

## ■ Sweet report

As part of its APSR project activities in 2006, the University of Sydney developed SUGAR (Sustainability Guidelines for Australian Repositories Service). SUGAR is a Web-based software application that is designed to support information specialists working in the higher education sector whose responsibilities include supporting the creation and management of content to support learning, teaching and research that is typically stored in an institutional repository. The SUGAR application provides a user-friendly interface whereby end-users can access up-to-date information related to their tasks and contribute new information in order to help build a shared institutional knowledge-base.

SUGAR was successfully developed by a University of Sydney and APSR project team; most notably by Rowan Brownlee of the University of Sydney Library who did the business analysis and collated the original SUGAR content, and David Berriman of APSR who developed the SUGAR software. A detailed report on the outcomes of the SUGAR project is also in preparation and will be available on the APSR website shortly.

While SUGAR is a successful proof of concept, further development of the application awaits buy-in from the higher education sector. APSR invites the sector to assess the SUGAR software with a view to its further development. The SUGAR prototype is online at <http://apsr.anu.edu.au/APSRFW/SUGAR/index.php?pid=50>

## ■ Helping field researchers

Field researchers gathered in December in the Refectory of Sydney University for *Sustainable Data from Digital Fieldwork: from creation to archive and back*. The conference and workshop showcased a number of projects that have been developing innovative and sustainable ways of managing data from fieldwork.

Academic papers on the conference theme were presented on the first day of the conference. The second day consisted of a panel discussion and demonstrations of the sustainability of fieldwork data. The participants moved to a computer lab on the final day for a workshop on recording digital audio and video, multimedia fieldwork data management (FieldHelper), media annotation (ELAN, Transcriber) and instruction on how to use other digital tools.

A refereed volume of papers is available from the website: <http://conferences.arts.usyd.edu.au/papers.php?cf=11>.



## Explaining the Research Quality Framework

With last year's announcement that the RQF was going ahead in 2008, APSR joined forces with ARROW for the first outreach event for 2007. *The RQF Explained: Information Management and Repository Needs for the RQF*



was well subscribed with over 120 people at the Sydney and Melbourne airport venues for an informative day. Despite the noise of a busy airport at Sydney, participants who had flown in mentioned they liked the venue because they didn't have to travel into the city. Due to a miscommunication, APSR was renamed by the Melbourne Airport Hilton – to the Australian Partnership for Sustainable Responsibilities!

Each day was split into three, beginning with briefings from the Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST) about requirements, funding and timeframes. At the Sydney forum, DEST

asked the participants to suggest areas that needed addressing and to put forward any questions they may have. A very interesting and important discussion ensued, and many of the points made were incorporated into the Melbourne presentation two days later.

DEST announced that each university has an RQF contact officer, in most cases the Pro Vice Chancellor (or Deputy Vice Chancellor) of Research, to whom they will be forwarding all information about the RQF as it is released.



After an informative talk on copyright by Derek Whitehead from Swinburne University, the second part of the day was devoted to experience gained by running mock RQF trials. The take home messages were "it takes much longer than you think it will!" (with one estimate of an average of 28 minutes to verify the details on each paper deposited) and, "run a trial so you know where the problems will be when you do the real thing."



The day concluded with a summary of what had been discussed and an open microphone session where participants could discuss

where they were going to start when they returned back to their work.

Adrian Burton announced a new support service from APSR – the Institutional Repository Support Network, which is being established to help those with an interest in these topics to continue the interesting conversation that we started at this event. APSR looks forward to the participation of the speakers and audience at the RQF event on the mailing list.



Anyone who is interested is encouraged to join.

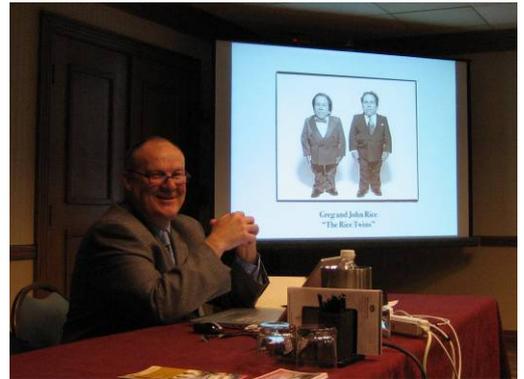
<http://mailman.anu.edu.au/mailman/listinfo/ir-net>



Powerpoint presentations from *The RQF Explained* are up on the website for those who couldn't attend, as are photos of those attending. Remember that the APSR website has a section on RQF and Repositories: <http://www.apsr.edu.au/rqf/>

## ■ APSR out there

Once again, APSR has been well represented at conferences and workshops both locally and internationally. Chris Blackall and Margaret Henty travelled to the US late last year to attend the CNI Fall Task Force Meeting held in Washington DC on December 4 and 5 (<http://www.cni.org/tfms/2006b.fall/>). Chris gave a presentation entitled "Repository-to-Repository Interoperability Solutions for DSpace and Fedora", which elicited lots of questions. He was also interviewed by Matt Pasiewicz for EduCause Connect and the 19 minute talk can be downloaded from [http://connect.educause.edu/blog/mpasiewicz/an\\_interview\\_with\\_christopher\\_blackall/15451](http://connect.educause.edu/blog/mpasiewicz/an_interview_with_christopher_blackall/15451).



Chris and Margaret took advantage of an invitation to the Library of Congress to visit the fabulous building and lunch with a small group of LC staff, to catch up on latest developments with METS and other aspects of digital preservation. Margaret later gave a presentation to a larger group about the work of APSR and presented an APSR mug to Rebecca Guenther, from the Library of Congress Network Development Office. Rebecca had been a keynote speaker at the APSR and National Library event, *Long Term Repositories: Taking the Shock out of the Future*, but had been unable at the last minute to attend in person.

Chris braved another economy flight to the US in January to attend Open Repositories 2007 (<http://openrepositories.org/>) in San Antonio, Texas, this time with Scott Yeadon (Australian National University) and Christiaan Kortekaas (University of Queensland) also representing APSR. The co-chair of the conference, John Leggett, publicly thanked APSR and Adrian Burton for establishing *Open Repositories 2006* in his welcome speech. Chris's poster session was well received. Scott demonstrated the APSR projects for 2007. Scott and Chris have begun alliances with a US repository group who are also focussing on interoperability.



Fez lead developer, Christiaan Kortekaas, made a very well-received presentation on Fez+Fedora at Open Repositories 2007 in San Antonio, Texas. Christiaan will return to the US in a couple of weeks to attend the Fedora Architecture Summit in New York.



Information Online 2007 (<http://www.information-online.com.au/>) was held at Darling Harbour, Sydney at the end of January. Dr Markus Buchhorn, newly appointed to the position of Director, Information and Communication Technology Environments, at the Australian National University gave a presentation, "The Preservation and Sustainability of Research Data in Australia". This presentation was based on the recent APSR sponsored study by Paul McNamara and Markus Buchhorn, "Sustainability Issues for Australian Research Data". For the benefit of Canberra-based readers, Markus will be repeating his presentation at 12.30pm on March 16 in the McDonald Room of the RG Menzies Library at the Australian National University.

Presentations by Chris Blackall, Markus Buchhorn, Christiaan Kortekaas, and Scott Yeadon are all available at <http://www.apsr.edu.au/publications/presentations.html>.

## ■ Adapting to the new world

The middle of the year is hotting up as APSR prepares to present two events, *The Adaptable Repository* in Sydney and *eResearch Australasia 2007* in Brisbane.

*The Adaptable Repository* will be a one-day workshop on new challenges and opportunities for repositories, and will be held in association with ARROW. The workshop will be held at the Refectory, Holme Building at the University of Sydney on Thursday, May 3.

The theme of the day will be the challenge of developing multiple uses for the repository. As the repository is further embedded into institutional practice, questions of multi-purposing and value-adding arise. Repositories can assist with many aspects of research including research management, opening access to research publications, institutional research profiling, collection management and display and the upcoming RQF.

APSR is delighted that Susan Gibbons, the Associate Dean for Public Services & Collection Development at the University of Rochester has agreed to present for APSR once again. Her talk will be entitled "Repositories as Platforms for Researcher ePortfolios". There will also be a presentation from DEST on research reporting and the RQF and Dr Chris Rusbridge of the Digital Curation Centre in the UK will speak on the curation of scientific data.

A Repository Market Day will be held on May 4 in association with the Adaptable Repository. In the run up to the RQF, those universities who have not yet implemented their own repositories may be interested to learn what is available. Representatives of the open source software community and commercial providers will be showcasing what they have to offer in a half day session to be held at the University of Sydney.

See <http://www.apsr.edu.au/adaptable/> and prepare to register in early March.

## ■ Raising eResearch awareness

APSR will once again spend the end of June in Brisbane, presenting *eResearch Australasia 2007* in association with MAPS (Middleware Action Plan and Strategy) and DEST.

Keynote presenters include David de Roure, Head of Grid and Pervasive Computing at the University of Southampton, Phil Bourne, Professor of Pharmacology at the University of California San Diego, Paul Arthur, Research Director of the ARC funded Linkage Project 'Voices From the West End: The Fremantle Living Histories Project', Rudolf Dimper of the European Synchrotron Facility and Mike Sargent, Chair of the eResearch Coordinating Committee and of the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Committee .

To be held from 27-29 June at the University of Queensland, the two day conference will be followed by a day of workshops. The body of the conference will feature speakers, posters, and demonstrations from the Australian and international eResearch communities. It will focus on raising awareness of eResearch activities in Australia and the Asia Pacific Region, and information sharing and networking among those engaged in eResearch. There will also be discussion of the technical and cultural issues related to eResearch and the barriers which prevent its wider adoption. eResearch initiatives, including NCRIS and the Australian Access Federation (AAF), will be discussed.

There will be discipline-based presentations as well as technical talks. So far, sessions are planned for materials science, life science, environmental systems and ecoinformatics and the social sciences, arts and humanities. Opportunities for delegates to get to know each other are being provided through the two social events on the conference calendar: a welcome reception on the evening prior to the conference and a dinner the following night.

More details are available at: <http://www.eresearch.edu.au/>. Registration will be open early March.

## ■ Hidden Heroes – Patrick Byrnes

Our hidden hero this issue is Patrick Byrnes, the man behind the mug! Patrick is a graphic designer with infinite patience and a wonderful eye. Over the past 18 months, Patrick has put his own stamp on APSR by designing a special website for Open Repositories 2006, the highly-valued APSR mug, all our brochures and oddities such as compliments slips, folders and writing pads.

Patrick grew up in Pennsylvania in the United States of America and migrated to Australia in 2001. His 'day job' (when not working for APSR) is as a graphic designer for the ANU Division of Information Outreach team where the majority of his work is designing websites. One of the benefits of the APSR work for Patrick is that it gives him the opportunity to work in non-virtual mediums, such as print publications and mugs.



## UNESCO

Many of our readers would be aware that setting up and running an institutional repository is an expensive exercise. If it is an expensive exercise for well-funded institutions in the economically developed world, then how can institutions in the developing world participate? To help answer this question, APSR and UNESCO are jointly funding a study to investigate and specify an affordable and user-friendly digital repository and preservation platform that could be adopted by education and cultural heritage organizations in the developing world, and for the many community-based organizations operating on shoe-string budgets. The report will make recommendations about what areas of technology and software need to be developed so a truly sustainable and affordable preservation system can be built.



Leading this project on behalf of UNESCO is Kevin Bradley of the National Library of Australia. Kevin is a member of the UNESCO 'Memory of the World' Sub-Committee of Technology on digital preservation of cultural heritage, and an expert on digital and audio preservation. The APSR contribution is co-coordinated by Chris Blackall and research for the report is being undertaken by Junran Lei, a recent Masters of Information Technology graduate from the ANU. The APSR/UNESCO report will be completed in April for submission to UNESCO. A public copy of the report will be made available on the APSR website.

## Repository content boost

There should soon be a surge of deposits in repositories Australia-wide, with new funding rules from both the Australian Research Council (ARC) and the National Health and Medical Research Council (NH&MRC).

Both bodies have included clauses in their funding rules for 2008 which ask researchers to place their results into a repository. In both cases the statements have said that the benefits from research will be maximized by a broader dissemination of findings.

The ARC and NH&MRC policies both 'encourage researchers to consider the benefits of depositing their data and any publications arising from a research project in an appropriate subject and/or institutional repository wherever such a repository is available to the researcher(s)'.

The ARC policy goes further, saying that if the researcher chooses not to do so they must include their reasons why not in their Final Report. The NH&MRC is waiting for their IT system to be updated to allow for this form of reporting before they will also include this requirement.

## Staffing news

There is never a dull moment at APSR, and while most of the university community was taking a break over Christmas, APSR was gearing up for 2007. There have been several staffing changes.



James Blanden has joined David Berriman as a Java developer. Seconded from Corporate Information Services - part of the ANU Division of Information (DOI) - he brings 13 years experience to the role. He will be working with APSR for 9 months on the ORCA (Online Research Collections Australia) project, to provide support to and share information with partners and others throughout the year.

We have also gained Junran Lei, a recent Masters of Information Technology graduate from the ANU, as a researcher on the jointly funded APSR and UNESCO study to investigate and specify an affordable and user-friendly digital repository and preservation platform as reported above. Junran is doing the detailed technical investigation and analysis for the UNESCO Project through to April 2007. However, she is also building her expertise in this area through her ARC-funded research work for the Centre for Cross-Cultural Research, ANU.

Danny Kingsley, our Outreach Project Officer is moving to a casual position one day a week in order to concentrate on her studies this year.

## ■ Shiny and new website

If you haven't already, check out APSR's reconfigured website for 2007. From the front page you can click through to the *APSR Roadmap for 2007* which describes the focus for the organization for the next 10 months. The Projects page describes the areas we will be covering this year, and more information will be added to this page as we move through the projects.

The News & Events page (<http://www.apsr.edu.au/news/>) now has an APSR menu as well as the year by year classification, so you can easily find a particular APSR event.

Our Publications page (<http://www.apsr.edu.au/publications/>) has a new series of headings, allowing the casual browser to easily find Project Reports, Discussion Papers or the Newsletter. APSR is also implementing the SUGAR interface onto the Recommended Reading Page (which is concurrently being updated) and this should be operational by the next newsletter.

## ■ Easing into open source

You don't need to be a computer expert or have a vast quantity of technical support to run an open source repository as a number of Australian universities can demonstrate. Open source does not mean 'free' in the traditional sense, and any group using an open source repository platform will need to spend some money adjusting it to their needs. Having a wider open source community to turn to for help and advice means that even people with only basic computing understanding have managed to successfully install repositories. Universities usually have a system administrator on site who can be helpful in this situation.

Flinders University created their DSpace repository, the Flinders Academic Commons, as an initiative of the School of Humanities, with the Library agreeing to set it up with some support from IT Services. The Library is now expanding the repository by working with the various Research Centres at the University. The choice of DSpace satisfied a need to be financially prudent, and it offered a system that was portable and did not tie them to a particular vendor, says Katie Cavanagh, a digital media lecturer at Flinders University who has helped implement the process and co-ordinate the archiving of articles in the Humanities. This small cost allowed the set-up group to work through teething issues. "Going with open source is partially what allowed us to have such a small decision-making group. Without the need to justify the huge amount spent we could build a successful repository and then draw attention to it," she comments.

As for the technical aspect of installing and using the system, the Flinders group has found it to be straightforward. "The actual installation was painless," she says. She argues that fees that would be spent on proprietary software can be invested in the open source system. The group has chosen to consult the DSpace community rather than employing dedicated programmers, and is now working out ways of feeding back into the larger DSpace community to help its progression. See <http://dspace.flinders.edu.au/dspace/>.

Steve Thomas, a Senior Systems Analyst at the University of Adelaide installed DSpace for the Digital Library (<http://digital.library.adelaide.edu.au/dspace/>) and describes his installation as 'mainly painless'. He did need to read up on extra software before he could follow the DSpace instructions. He used the mailing list for some technical support, and suggests that installation notes could be improved. The actual installation took half a day in the end.

Both commented that the installation effort is insignificant in comparison to the effort and ongoing financial commitment required to populate a repository including the need for dedicated staff.

*Readers interested in this topic might wish to also read:*

Katie Cavanagh's presentation "Alternative Models: A faculty based repository" at The Successful Repository in Brisbane on 29 June 2006. Slides are downloadable from - <http://www.apsr.edu.au/presentations/successful.html>, and her talk is available as a podcast: <http://www.apsr.edu.au/pod/manualdownloads.html>

Marco Iansiti and Gregory L. Richards, **The Business of Free Software: Enterprise Incentives, Investment, and Motivation in the Open Source Community**, Harvard Business School, December 15, 2006. Available at: <http://hbswk.hbs.edu/item/5567.html>

Rishab Aiyer Ghosh, **Study on the Economic Impact of Open Source Software on Innovation and the Competitiveness of the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Sector in the EU**, European Union, November 20, 2006. Downloadable as a pdf: <http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/ict/policy/doc/2006-11-20-flossimpact.pdf>

■ **Around the Traps.... Send your suggestions to [contact@apsr.edu.au](mailto:contact@apsr.edu.au)**

### **Conferences and events**

**2007 5-7 March, Emerging Libraries: How Knowledge will be Accessed, Discovered and Disseminated in the Age of Digital Information 2007 De Lange Conference.** *Houston Texas USA,*  
<http://www.delange.rice.edu/conferenceVI.cfm>

**2007 18-20 April, DigCCurr2007: An International Symposium on Digital Curation,** *Chapel Hill North Carolina USA,* <http://www.ils.unc.edu/digccurr2007/>

**2007 18-20 April, CERN Workshop on Innovations in Scholarly Communication (OAI5)** *Geneva Switzerland,*  
<http://oai5.web.cern.ch/oai5/>

**2007 29 April – 2 May, EduCause Australasia 2007,** *Melbourne, Victoria Australia*  
<http://www.caudit.edu.au/educauseaustralasia07/>

### **Publications (reading)**

■ **ARC Discovery Projects Funding Rules for Funding Commencing in 2008**

See section 1.4.5. Dissemination of research outputs.

Downloadable as a pdf: [http://www.arc.gov.au/pdf/DP08\\_FundingRules.pdf](http://www.arc.gov.au/pdf/DP08_FundingRules.pdf)

■ **NHMRC Project Grants Funding Policy for Funding Commencing in 2008**

See section 16.2 Dissemination of Scientific Results.

Downloadable as a pdf: [http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/funding/\\_files/profundingpol.pdf](http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/funding/_files/profundingpol.pdf)

■ Marco Iansiti and Gregory L. Richards, **The Business of Free Software: Enterprise Incentives, Investment, and Motivation in the Open Source Community,** Harvard Business School, December 15, 2006. Available at: <http://hbswk.hbs.edu/item/5567.html>

■ Rishab Aiyer Ghosh, **Study on the Economic Impact of Open Source Software on Innovation and the Competitiveness of the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Sector in the EU,** European Union, November 20, 2006.

This report concludes that switching to open source software (such as OpenOffice.org) provides a long term saving on the cost of ownership of software products. This takes into account the initial training costs of moving to an open solution. (section 12.7. Conclusions)

Downloadable as a pdf: <http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/ict/policy/doc/2006-11-20-flossimpact.pdf>

■ **From Data to Wisdom: Pathways to Successful Data Management for Australian Science,** Working Group on Data for Science Report to PMSEIC, December 2006. Available at: [http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/science\\_innovation/publications\\_resources/profiles/Presentation\\_Data\\_for\\_Science.htm](http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/science_innovation/publications_resources/profiles/Presentation_Data_for_Science.htm)

### **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 Danny Kingsley, Margaret Henty, Chris Blackall and Belinda Weaver.*

### **The APSR partners**



### **Supported by**



**An Innovative Action Plan for the Future.**



This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 2.5 License:

<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/2.5/au/>