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■ **Australia's research data future**

The future of Australia's research data is the issue to be addressed at *Long-Lived Collections* to be held on Tuesday, 11 September, at the National Library of Australia. *Long-lived Collections* follows on from comments made in the December 2006 Prime Minister's Science, Engineering and Innovation Council's *Data for Science Working Group Report*, which states "Although the current research environment is characterised by massive quantities of data, the ability to harness these data to solve complex problems is often hampered by inadequate data management practices".

Long-Lived Collections attempts to address questions such as: How will Australia's research infrastructure cope with the challenge of managing the data that our researchers are producing? How will the recommendations of the Prime Minister's Science, Engineering and Innovation Council's *Data for Science Working Group* be implemented? What are the issues from the perspective of the Australian science or humanities researcher? What are the issues from the perspective of those who are managing our data archives?

This event is designed to foster discussion about these issues. It is a must for research administrators, research funding bodies, research policy makers, data archive owners, and all those with an interest in seeing that the data generated by Australian research will be well managed for future access.

Among the speakers and participants will be both policy makers and practitioners including: representatives of the Department of Employment, Science and Training, the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS), senior academic administrators, the Australian Research Council and learned academies. Practitioners taking part will include Kim Finney from the Australian Antarctic Data Centre and Dr Kaarin Anstey from the Centre for Mental Health Research at the Australian National University.

Details: http://www.apsr.edu.au/long_lived_collections/

■ **Your chance to talk at Clever Collections**

Have you been part of a technical innovation with your repository? APSR is putting out the call for expressions of interest to make a presentation on innovations that enhance online research collections. More info on [page 3](#).

■ **Caption competition**

Yes, it's on again – APSR's caption competition. A coveted APSR mug is waiting for the best caption to this image of Adrian Burton in the Arizona desert. The full sized image (and an explanation of what Adrian is doing in the middle of the Arizona desert) is on [page 7](#).



■ Serving up a winner

Educause Australasia 2007 was a great success, with several presentations made by APSR people. The Melbourne Convention Centre was a highly professional venue. The APSR team presented talks under the theme of eResearch. Chris Blackall gave a presentation “Digital Repositories and the Australian Higher Education Sector: Where to Next?”

As part of the concurrent sessions, Adrian Burton gave a talk on “National Perspectives On e-Research - Policy, Infrastructure, Trends, And Demonstrators”. Anna Shadbolt (on behalf of herself and Dirk van der Knijff) spoke about “Tracing A Sustainable Path For Data Intensive Research Communities: An Institutional Case Study From The University Of Melbourne”.

Margaret Henty and Danny Kingsley spoke on “Readiness And Responsibilities For Managing Research Data: The Institutional Perspective” which used the analogy of a pantry for repositories (hence the aprons) where the interesting stuff doesn’t happen until you start to mix things together. Before the session, they put tags under some chairs and, at the end, those people with a tag were able to trade them in for a gingerbread man. People were literally crawling under chairs to find their tags. The sessions were next to each other to allow people to move between talks if they needed to – and several comments were made after the ‘gingerbread’ talk that the group next door couldn’t work out what all the laughing was about!

Author’s papers are downloadable from: http://www.caudit.edu.au/educauseaustralasia07/authors_papers.htm

Adrian, Margaret and Danny recently re-presented their talks to the University and Research Libraries Group of ALIA.



■ Read all about it

The research behind the talk on managing research data has been published and is now available. Margaret Henty’s paper, “Ten Major Issues in Providing a Repository Service in Australian Universities” is available in the open access journal, *D-Lib Magazine*, Vol 13, No. 5/6 (May/June 2007): (<http://www.dlib.org/dlib/may07/henty/05henty.html>). This is apparently worth reading, as *The Informed Librarian Online* selected the article as an Editor’s Pick for the June issue: (<http://www.informedlibrarian.com/>).

The research stems from interviews with 33 senior people in 14 universities (including Australia’s eight largest research universities). Because of limited space, it was not possible to include all of the comments made by interviewees about particular issues in the *D-Lib Magazine* article. If you are interested in reading further comments you can find more from those interviewed in a supplementary publication: “Ten Major Issues in Providing a Repository Service in Australian Universities: extended interview comments”, by Margaret Henty, May 2007. Available in pdf (85.34kb): http://www.apsr.edu.au/airs/major_issues_comments.pdf

■ Click for your new community

For people running an Institutional Repository, there is now a forum for you to ask questions, share ideas and make contacts - the Institutional Repositories Community - ANZ list.

This is intended to be an inclusive Community of Practice for all those involved in the management of Institutional Repositories in Australian and New Zealand universities, regardless of software platform, location, project, or readiness. This is a single forum to inform and announce, to discuss and share problems and ideas.

The list does not restrict membership to one per institution, and although there is an Antipodean focus, international members will not be excluded. The list will cover issues such as; management of your repository, how you are using it, marketing and promotion issues and ideas, workflows, metadata, copyright management, reactions to national and international development(s) in the repository space, sustainability and practical RQF queries.

Alison Hunter and Eve Young, who have instigated the list, encourage potential members, “the list is limited only by your enthusiasm and willingness to join in the common repository ‘space’ that we are all in”. Anyone interested in joining can do so from the homepage (if link does not work, cut and paste address into your browser):

<http://groups.google.com/group/institutionalrepositoriescommunity-anz>

■ Your chance to talk at Clever Collections

Are you interested in speaking at *Clever Collections: a national showcase of technical innovations for digital collections*? The event will be held at the University of Melbourne on Wednesday, 28 and Thursday, 29 November, 2007.

This event will showcase the world-class innovative development of collections (and the systems that support them) being undertaken in Australia. *Clever Collections* will provide a showcase of technical innovation relating to repositories, data centres and other research collections as they are found in universities and major research organizations.

The event will favour concise 20 - 30 minute presentations, and will deliberately juxtapose innovations from all manner of online collections, for example: science datasets, online dictionaries and encyclopaedias, cross-disciplinary information grids, digital libraries, institutional repositories, research data archives and cultural and heritage collections.

The audience will be a mixture of eResearch technologists and technical support staff, researchers engaged or interested in innovative ways of enhancing research through technology, repository developers and curators of databases of research materials.

If you are interested in submitting an expression of interest, make your application online and send it in before August 31: <http://www.apsr.edu.au/clevercollections/>

■ A training opportunity not to be missed

APSR is delighted to announce it has successfully negotiated bringing the Digital Preservation Management Workshop from Cornell University to Australia. The primary goal of this course is to enable effective decision making for administrators who will be responsible for the longevity of digital objects in an age of technological uncertainty. It will be of interest to the higher education sector as well as state libraries, archives and other government bodies.

The training will be held on October 25 and 26 at the Darlington Centre at the University of Sydney. It will be presented by Nancy McGovern from the University of Michigan and Anne Kenney from Cornell University.

The number of places will be limited to just 30, and the cost is \$600 per person. This fee is subsidised by APSR.

In a break from APSR tradition, there is an application form for those interested in attending this workshop. APSR will apply a decision-making process with the applications to try and ensure as wide a range of institutions as possible is represented. For further information, and to access the application form, go to:

http://www.apsr.edu.au/orca/digital_preservation_management.htm

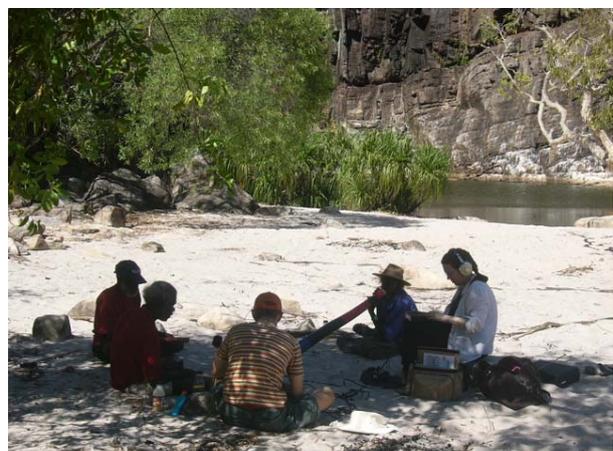
■ FIDAS

The report for the FIDAS project is now available. This project addressed the issues of data collection of fieldworkers, who typically use ad-hoc methods to collect their fieldwork. The data from fieldwork represents resources that are often unique and unrepeatable records of highly significant events collected at considerable expense of researcher time, effort and resources. For the data to be ingested into a repository, the metadata needs to be complete and comprehensive – a situation that was rarely happening in the field.

The FIDAS project resulted in a data model for academic field research called “FieldHelper”. This open access middleware software tool is available as a download from <http://acl.arts.usyd.edu.au/FIDAS/>. FIDAS was funded by APSR in 2006 to assist field researchers to implement international standards in data creation and description.

The report includes a description of the conference held in December at Sydney University, “Sustainable Data from Digital Fieldwork” (complete with a list of the papers and presentations available for download) and a full description of the development of the data model.

The report is downloadable from: <http://www.apsr.edu.au/fidas/>



The Adaptable Repository



Over 100 people gathered in the historic Holme Building at the University of Sydney to hear speakers from around the world at *The Adaptable Repository* in May 2007. APSR was very lucky to be able to once again have Susan Gibbons, Assistant Dean of Public Services & Collection Development from the University of Rochester, give a presentation about her research looking at how to encourage academics to use her university's repository.



Dr Alex Cooke from DEST made a presentation, giving the group much needed detail about

the timeframe of the upcoming RQF. Pre-implementation trials are currently underway and the RQF specifications will be released for consultation in July 2007. The expression of intent to submit to the RQF will need to be made in January 2008, and the new funding system will commence in the beginning of January 2009. In addition, Alex explained that DEST intends to take responsibility for negotiating licences with publishers to use copyrighted materials. This is because the RQF reporting process will require a link to the publisher's version of the pdf file. Of possibly the greatest importance to repository managers was the information that DEST will require reports that have a direct link to the output itself in the repository, rather than via a metadata page.

Other topics included open access and data management. The afternoon was devoted to speakers talking about technical and other experiences with repositories Australia-wide.

There was appreciation amongst the group that DEST was on the speaker list: *"[it was] very useful having someone from DEST there"*, and delegates are looking forward to more information on funding as it becomes available. In general, comments were overwhelmingly positive.



"I especially liked the way for several of the speakers the discussion of Repositories was imbued with a passion for research."



"I am very new to this and everything was valuable."



"I commend the quality of all speakers. Very impressive."



"Susan Gibbon's talk was very useful in identifying common barriers to depositing and new ways of working to overcome them. I also found it useful to have my thinking about repositories and their function broadened by some of the other presentations."

A select number of presentations are available on the APSR website at: <http://www.apsr.edu.au/presentations/adaptable.html>. You can subscribe to hear select podcasts by going to: <http://www.apsr.edu.au/pod/>

Repository Market Day

Following close on the heels of *The Adaptable Repository* was the Market Day. Representatives from the ANU, Sydney University and the University of Technology, Sydney discussed their experiences with DSpace. Chris Hall discussed ARROW and the VTLS Solution, Matthew Smith talked about Fez+Fedora, Professor Arthur Sale presented on ePrints and David Sidebottom and Dan Hamid from ProQuest presented a talk on Digital Commons.

Sandra Fox, the Director of the RQF Information Management System with DEST gave a talk entitled "How Repositories will be used in the Research Quality Framework", which explored the issues (and challenges) about developing a management system with constantly changing guidelines.



Information on the Repository Market Day is available online: http://www.apsr.edu.au/adaptable/market_day.htm

Hidden heroes – Paul Maclay

This newsletter's Hidden Hero is Paul Maclay, the ANU Division of Information's Video Producer. Paul is currently creating a promotional video for APSR (coming to the website soon). This video will feature talks by APSR staff, still images of the university and music and voice-overs – utilising many of Paul's editing and filming skills. When not creating this potential AFI winner, Paul records lectures and presentations by staff members at ANU which he can then convert into formats to be streamed on the web.

Having previously worked as a gardener and guitarist, Paul began with the ANU in Digital Media Services. In total he has worked for the ANU for 'eight glorious years', and professes to 'really love the place'.

The long hair Paul is sporting in this photo is currently being re-grown – In a fit of pique after being offered a seat on a bus by a kindly teenager, Paul cut his hair short. He now regrets the decision.

Paul recently moved into new, and far more spacious, digs on level 3 in Hancock Library. He has also acquired a Sony Z1P high definition camera which can shoot in Digital Video, High Definition Video or Digital Video Cam. He is definitely armed and ready to go!



Staff news



Andrew Heath has been appointed to manage the ORCA project at the University of Queensland. Andrew was the Digital Projects Coordinator at the State Library of New South Wales (1996-7). He was also a member and convener of the Digitisation Advisory Group for the University of Queensland Library (2000-02) which was responsible for a range of digitisation projects.

He has recently been involved in a range of health-related projects, such as the coordination of the PDA Project for the University of Queensland School of Medicine and consultancy for the Queensland Nursing Council. Andrew will be working with Belinda Weaver on ORCA and will initially be developing a web presence for the project, running training and doing local consultancy with researchers.

■ OAK Law publications

The OAK Law Project is pleased to announce the release of two new guides:

■ Kylie Pappalardo and Dr Anne Fitzgerald, **A Guide to Developing Open Access Through Your Digital Repository**, Version 2.0 April 2007, Oak Law Project

Downloadable as a pdf: <http://www.oaklaw.qut.edu.au/files/OAK%20Law%20Project%20Repository%20Guide.pdf>.

This guide examines and explains the copyright issues involved in depositing and accessing material in digital repositories. The guide focuses on effective management and promotion of digital repositories and in doing so, examines the relationships between the parties involved in the deposit and access process. Licensing requirements and options are also considered in detail. Finally, the guide touches on more technical considerations, such as software and metadata.

■ Damien O'Brien and Dr Anne Fitzgerald with the assistance of Professor Brian Fitzgerald, Scott-Kiel Chisholm, Jessica Coates and Kylie Pappalardo, **Copyright Guide for Research Students: What you need to know about copyright before depositing your electronic thesis in an online repository**, May 2007, OAK Law Project

Down-loadable as a pdf: <http://www.oaklaw.qut.edu.au/files/Copyright%20Guide%20for%20Research%20Students.pdf>

This guide is designed to assist research students in managing copyright issues which they may encounter in writing and depositing their electronic thesis in an online repository. The guide provides a broad overview of copyright law and importantly addresses critical issues relating to the inclusion of third party copyright material in a students thesis. The guide aims to simplify these issues through the inclusion of two model third party copyright permission requests, which students can use to obtain permission from the copyright owner before including third party material.

A copy of the guides is available at: <http://www.oaklaw.qut.edu.au>

■ Report on New Zealand meeting

The 2nd National Seminar on Institutional Repositories in NZ sponsored by CONZUL was held on Monday 28th May 2007 at the University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand.



Representatives of diverse functions of tertiary organisations (technical, library, research, administration, and academic) attended the seminar.

Professor Tom Cochrane (QUT) opened and closed the seminar. He outlined international trends, significant challenges and issues for repository managers, specifically: “buy-in” by academics and management, rights clarification, and changes in publishing models and

library practices.

Speakers from major projects reported back on their progress. There were representatives from Institutional Repositories Aotearoa (Ira), Open Access Repositories in NZ (OARiNZ), Institutes of Technology and Polytechnic Sector Consortium (Coda), National Research Discover Service (NRDS); and the university library consortium (LCoNZ).

Collaboration within and between these projects has permitted collective benefit (in progress) and significant learning (by doing). One example is the NRDS project, which had input from all these projects to develop metadata guidelines to assist with coordinating repository metadata nationally.



For some of the 84 attendees it was their first exposure to terms like “Open Access” and OAI harvesting and others from the Research Sector expressed relief at being able to discuss problems in gathering data for the Performance Based Research Fund (PBRF), the equivalent of the Australian RQF.

The second day was a meeting of DSpace Users in NZ (most of the universities in NZ have recently started to use DSpace for theses and research outputs). Scott Yeadon from ANU provided some valuable insights into current trends with DSpace software.

More information: <http://www.ira.auckland.ac.nz>

From the horse's mouth

The RQF Team at DEST now has a new way of letting people know what is happening as we move towards the new system. They are circulating a regular newsletter to all RQF contact officers. The newsletters provide up-to-date information on the RQF and its progress towards implementation. For example, the May newsletter discusses the first meeting of the assessment panel chairs and the development of quality metrics for the RQF. To date, three monthly newsletters have been published, in March, April and May. The newsletter is freely available to anyone, so if the RQF contact at your institution has not sent this on to you, simply go to:

http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/research_sector/policies_issues_reviews/key_issues/research_quality_framework/qf_newsletters.htm

The numbers are up!

Analysis of APSR web usage statistics shows that APSR publications are reaching a world-wide audience. Between January and May, 2007, pdf downloads of project reports, issues papers and this newsletter are consistently high, as can be seen from the table below. Highest on the report usage list is the *PREMIS Requirement Statement Project Report* with 2,384 downloads followed by the *APSR Sustainability Issues Discussion Paper* with 2,244. None of these, however, reaches the APSR Newsletter, with a total of 3,358 downloads during this period of the December, February and April issues.

Title	Date of publication	Downloads Jan to May 2007 pdf only
PREMIS Requirement Statement Project Report*	July 2006	2,384
APSR Sustainability Issues Discussion Paper*	June 2005	2,244
Sustainable Paths for Data-Intensive Research Communities	August 2006	952
Preservation of Word-Processing Documents*	July 2006	1,017
Sustainability Issues for Australian Research Data: The report of the Australian e-Research Sustainability Survey Project **	October 2006	1,044
Preservation of TeX/LaTeX Documents	July 2006	1,022
AONS System Documentation	September 2006	805
Survey of Data Collections: a research project undertaken for the Australian Partnership for Sustainable Repositories*	December 2006	666
APSR Newsletter (December, February + April)		3,358

* Also available in html

** Also available through DSpace

Web usage statistics can be misleading, so this analysis is limited only to pdf files. Download statistics of the html versions (where available) of these same reports are not included. However, it is interesting to note that usage of the APSR website as a whole has grown from 754 hits per day (all file types) in January 2006 to 2,614 hits per day in May 2007.

It is difficult to measure usage of our podcasts, but it was pleasing to receive recently a letter recently saying "I would like to say that it has been absolutely fantastic to listen to previous conferences via podcast. I find it a fantastic way to ingest the information, maybe others do also".

Caption competition



You can understand why, during his recent trip to the USA, Adrian Burton visited the San Diego Supercomputer Center (<http://www.sdsc.edu/>) - because the SDSC enables international science and engineering discoveries through advances in computational science and high performance computing. And he needed to get to Phoenix, Arizona to present a paper at the Spring 2007 CNI Task Force Meeting (<http://www.cni.org/tfms/2007a.spring/>).

But what is Adrian up to in the middle of the Sonoran Desert on his travels between the SDSC and the CNI meeting?

The best caption sent to Margaret Henty (margaret.henty@anu.edu.au) by July 27 will win one of the few remaining APSR mugs. The winner will be announced in the August newsletter.

For those interested, Adrian's presentation: "Services and Infrastructure for Digital Collections" to *DigCCurr2007: An International Symposium on Digital Curation* in North Carolina is now available on the conference website: <http://www.ils.unc.edu/digccurr2007/program.html>

■ **Around the Traps**... Send your suggestions to contact@apsr.edu.au

Conferences and events

2007 11-12 July, Legal Framework for eResearch Conference, Gold Coast, Australia

<http://www.e-research.law.qut.edu.au/>

2007 27-31 August, International Conference on Dublin Core and Metadata Applications, Singapore

<http://conferences.nlb.gov.sg/dc2007/>

2007 8-12 October, APAC 07: Advanced Computing, Grid Applications and eResearch, Perth Australia

<http://www.apac.edu.au/apac07/>

2007 12-13 December, Curating our Digital Scientific Heritage: a Global Collaborative Challenge: 3rd International Digital Curation Conference, Washington DC, USA.

<http://www.dcc.ac.uk/events/dcc-2007/>

2008 5-7 February, VALA2008: Libraries/Changing Spaces, Virtual Places, Melbourne, Australia.

<http://www.vala.org.au/conf2008.htm>

Publications (reading)

■ Margaret Henty, **Ten Major Issues in Providing a Repository Service in Australian Universities**, May/June 2007, *D-Lib Magazine*, Vol 13, No 5/6.

Available at: <http://www.dlib.org/dlib/may07/henty/05henty.html>

■ Margaret Henty, **Ten Major Issues in Providing a Repository Service in Australian Universities: extended interview comments**, May 2007, APSR

Down-loadable as a pdf: http://www.apsr.edu.au/airs/major_issues_comments.pdf

■ Damien O'Brien and Dr Anne Fitzgerald with the assistance of Professor Brian Fitzgerald, Scott-Kiel Chisholm, Jessica Coates and Kylie Pappalardo, **Copyright Guide for Research Students: What you need to know about copyright before depositing your electronic thesis in an online repository**, May 2007, OAK Law Project

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■ Kylie Pappalardo and Dr Anne Fitzgerald, **A Guide to Developing Open Access Through Your Digital Repository**, Version 2.0 April 2007. Oak Law Project

Down-loadable as a pdf: <http://www.oaklaw.qut.edu.au/files/OAK%20Law%20Project%20Repository%20Guide.pdf>.

Next issue?

Be the first to know ... join the APSR Announcements email service at:

http://mailman.anu.edu.au/mailman/listinfo/apsr_announcements

Contributors to this newsletter were Danny Kingsley, Margaret Henty, Belinda Weaver, Leonie Hayes and Ingrid Mason.

The APSR partners



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