

# **Infrastructure And Services To Support Australian e-Research: The Middleware Action Plan And Strategic Roadmap**

Patricia McMillan

*The University Of Queensland*

## **Abstract:**

MAPS (Middleware Action Plan and Strategy) is a project to develop a strategic roadmap for middleware activities that will support research and higher education in Australia. Middleware is a set of common software and services designed to connect people to a range of resources in distributed environments. These resources include major research facilities, information and communications technology infrastructure, data repositories, and other resources that support e-research, scholarly communication, and e-learning.

The MAPS project is funded by the Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST) and led by The University of Queensland. The funding has been provided through the Systemic Infrastructure Initiative (SII) as part of the Government's Backing Australia's Ability - Building Our Future Through Science and Innovation. MAPS is part of the Managed Environment for Research Repository Infrastructure (MERRI) programme of projects.

The paper will describe the rationale behind the project, how the project relates to other initiatives such as NCRIS and the eResearch Framework, the project approach and plan, and progress to date.

The presentation will also describe the content of the draft strategic roadmap, which will be available in the first quarter of 2007.