

CCA EDUCAUSE 2011

E-research partnerships revisited

*Linda O'Brien
Pro Vice Chancellor, Information Services
Griffith University, Australia*

Questions I posed in 2005

- Who will be the champion for e-research support and related initiatives?
- Should we set up centralized or virtual distributed organizations to support e-research?
- How do we share expensive infrastructure and developed expertise to achieve research outcomes?
- How do we get domain-specific research communities to adopt recommended standards?
- How do we leverage what is being learned by domain-specific research communities to the broader research community?

Information Services

My e-research proposition

- *As information professionals we need to build partnerships with the research community*
- *We need to build partnerships between the university information groups : library, IT, records management, archives*
- *Provide the “human middleware” between the university and external agencies such as APAC, VPAC etc.*

Information Services

- **March 2004** Final report of the National Research Infrastructure Taskforce
- **2005** sector supported by the Australian Partnership for Advanced Computing (APAC) and the state PACs with an emphasis on HPC
- **Feb 2006** First National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS) Strategic Roadmap released
- **Nov 2006** Funding agreements signed to allocate \$542 mill. in NCRIS funds for 2006/7– 2010/11 (\$75 mill for Platforms for Collaboration)

Information Services

2007

“Digital research data are being viewed as a ‘third stream of scientific capital’...”

“The preservation, curation, and “stewardship” of the digital record is an amorphous problem”

*“...Digital content has become the authoritative record of scholarship, making **libraries** the obvious institution to take responsibility for continuity.”*

Information Services

2008

*Probably the greatest challenge of cyberinfrastructure at the campus level will be the **design and staffing of the organizations that will work with the faculty**: helping faculty access cyberinfrastructure services locally (and, when necessary, globally); assisting faculty in managing their data—including observational data, the construction of research and reference collections, or data from analysis or simulation—and preparing this data for handoff to the appropriate data repositories and curators at the appropriate time; and aiding faculty in parallelizing computations or organizing data for reuse, mining, and mashups.*

Information Services

- Sector has been the beneficiary of very significant national infrastructure investment
- Supported by a myriad of acronyms - Federal and State
- Third iteration of the Strategic Roadmap for Australian Research Infrastructure in train
 - “e-research infrastructure” replaces “Platforms for Collaboration”
 - Discussion paper out for comment
 - New Roadmap due with the Minister in August 2011
- But what has changed at a university level?

Information Services

1. *Is e-research visible in your element's plan?*
2. *What involvement do you have in the university's e-research activities?*
3. *What staffing profile/organisational structures have you put in place/adapted re above?*
4. *Who are your partners in providing information services to support e-research, within and external to the university?*

Information Services

- Curtin University
- Murdoch University
- Victoria University
- Flinders University
- University of Sunshine Coast
- University of New England
- Swinburne University
- Griffith University
- University of Western Sydney
- Southern Cross University
- Edith Cowan University
- Monash University
- James Cook University
- University of Tasmania
- Central Queensland University
- Charles Sturt University
- University of Technology Sydney
- Auckland University of Technology
- University of Western Australia
- Charles Darwin University
- University of Newcastle
- Charles Sturt University
- University of Ballarat
- University of South Australia
- University of Adelaide
- La Trobe University

Information Services

- IT
 - Yes or will be - 7
 - No - 3
- Library
 - Yes or will be - 13
 - No - 2
- Combined response
 - Yes - 4

Common themes

- Develop/deliver/ manage comprehensive Research Data Management Service
- Develop & provide innovative client-centred research support service
- Grow & manage Digital Institutional Research Repository
- Support researchers' use of systems

Information Services

Involvement in e-research activities

LEADERSHIP	POLICY DEVELOPMENT	SERVICE DELIVERY	INFRASTRUCTURE PROVISION	RESEARCH DATA MANAGEMENT
10 references	19 references	18 references	15 references	12 references
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -DVC a national leader -Leadership in the implementation and promotion of institutional repository and data management -HERDC audit process -Identifying eResearch IT service opportunities -advocacy -funding identification -liaison with external partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Contribute to working groups on eResearch committee -Steering groups/committees -Representatives on all major research committees -Preparation of university response to government ERA initiatives -Policy development specific to <i>open access</i> and data management -Participate in policy development with staff and research institutes -Updating University Research Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -research training -support to PG students -raise awareness of academic staff -conduct survey on data use in research within the university -Strategic development -eResearch seminars and workshops -forums for staff on open access eResearch -workshops on use of electronic resources -Business analysis -enterprise architecture development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Provision of online journals - Provide staffing & resources to support infrastructure -Computing networks -Network connectivity -eResearch infrastructure expert advisory groups -Collaborate with high performance computing -Collaborating tools (e.g. videoconferencing) -Data storage -Bibliometric tools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Responsible for the Institutional Research Repository -Population of repository -Development and Maintenance of repository -Exploring a more centralised and coordinated approach to eResearch support -ANDS project management -Manage institutional repository eSpace -Involvement in RQF and ERA
Information Services				

Structures and roles

Titles of Roles	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Made organisational structure changes – 3 • New dedicated staff positions – 9 • Redefined existing roles – 5 • Changes in planning stage – 3 • No changes - 4 - 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinator, Research Services and Institutional Repository • Research Services Librarian • Research Data Librarian • Datasets coordinator / Librarian • Digital Officer (E-Research) • Data Librarian • Metadata Librarian • Dedicated Liaison Librarian for Research
Information Services	

Diagram of Internal Partnerships



“All areas are ‘in sync’ with what is needed and what can be provided, and work together rather than in isolation”

“eResearch ... is driven by a strategic partnership of the DVC Research, the Research Office, the Library, IT services and the Centre for Applied Informatics”

Information Services

External partners	Number who mention
ANDS	10
ARCS	7
Intersect	6
QCIF	4
NeCTAR	2
RDSI	2
CAIRSS	2
iVEC	2
• AARNet, TPAC, AAF, AURIN, Dell, CAUL, CAUDIT, eResearch SA, QULOC, REANNZ, Alcatel-Lucent, other unis, LATN	• ASSDA/ADA, State library WA, Thomson Reuters, Population Health Research Network, Health Dept. WA, IATUL, IBM, URO, Catalyst NZ
Information Services	

“The Library considers the development of the partnership (IT, Research Services, e-Research Centre) ...is essential to progress e-research endeavours”

“This partnership (ANDs, Intersect) is seen as critical to gaining traction for e-research support within the University”

“The development of relevant partnerships with both internal and external bodies is a growing and critical area for us”

“These partnerships (Library, IT, Research office) are key to ensuring consistent and high quality support to e-research”

“ANDS (crucial)”

Information Services

1. We have come a long way in a short time

- External drivers have helped
 - *Money*
 - *Policy - Research Code, ARC rules*
 - *but most particularly ERA*
- Internal relationships have matured
- Federal and state initiatives have proliferated

Information Services

2. Most libraries have grabbed the challenges and opportunities offered by e-research
 - Aided by an existing collaborative culture
 - A commitment to providing access to, and preservation of, scholarly work and
 - A closeness to the researcher
 - Sector-wide policy and funding opportunities driven through ANDS
 - During a period of significant change in core business processes

3. We are maturing quickly
 - Our view of 'e-research' is changing
 - *Data as infrastructure*
 - *Human middleware as infrastructure*
 - *Seen as integral part of the research lifecycle*
 - We are rapidly adapting existing capabilities and structures

4. But where are the researchers? Research groups?
Research centres?
 - Still low levels of awareness among researchers
 - We didn't put them forward as a critical partner in the surveys
 - Have we made the environment more complex than it needs to be?
 - Are we completely clear on how our role adds the most value as university information professionals?
What should happen internationally? Nationally?
Locally?

My closing thoughts April 2005

- *Fundamentally e-research is about blending know how and technology to advance research outcomes*
- *Unless we show how we as information professionals can add value we risk being by-passed*
- *We need to 'think global and act local' - building partnerships within our universities and beyond to enhance research outcomes*



Information Services

21

<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>



Attribution 4.0 International