

Intersect:

eResearch Services and Support for NSW

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INTERSECT



But first - who am I?

- Until a few weeks ago, I was in corporate R&D
- I led the Research Division at Canon's R&D center (CiSRA) here in Sydney
 - I was there for 16 years and built a trans-disciplinary team of about 65 people
 - We created original ICT technology for Canon's products world wide e.g. PC software, jpeg, optical testing, image processing etc.
- I have experience at commercial research and "customer requirements", however I am new to the eResearch community.



Intersect: Mission Statement

Intersect: Mission Statement V1

Increase the competitiveness and visibility of NSW based research through the provision of advanced and specialised ICT.



Intersect: Mission Statement V2

Increase the competitiveness and visibility of NSW based research through the provision of advanced and specialised ICT **services and solutions.**



Intersect: Mission Statement V3

Work with NSW Universities to increase the competitiveness and visibility of NSW based research through the provision of advanced and specialised ICT services and solutions.



Intersect: Mission Statement V4

Work with NSW Universities to increase the competitiveness and visibility of NSW based research through the provision of advanced and specialised ICT services and solutions, **enabling:**

- improved management of research data
- new methods for collaboration
- new research methodologies



Intersect: Mission Statement V5

Work with NSW Universities **and others** to increase the competitiveness and visibility of NSW based research through the provision of advanced and specialised ICT services and solutions, enabling:

- improved management of research data
- new methods for collaboration
- new research methodologies

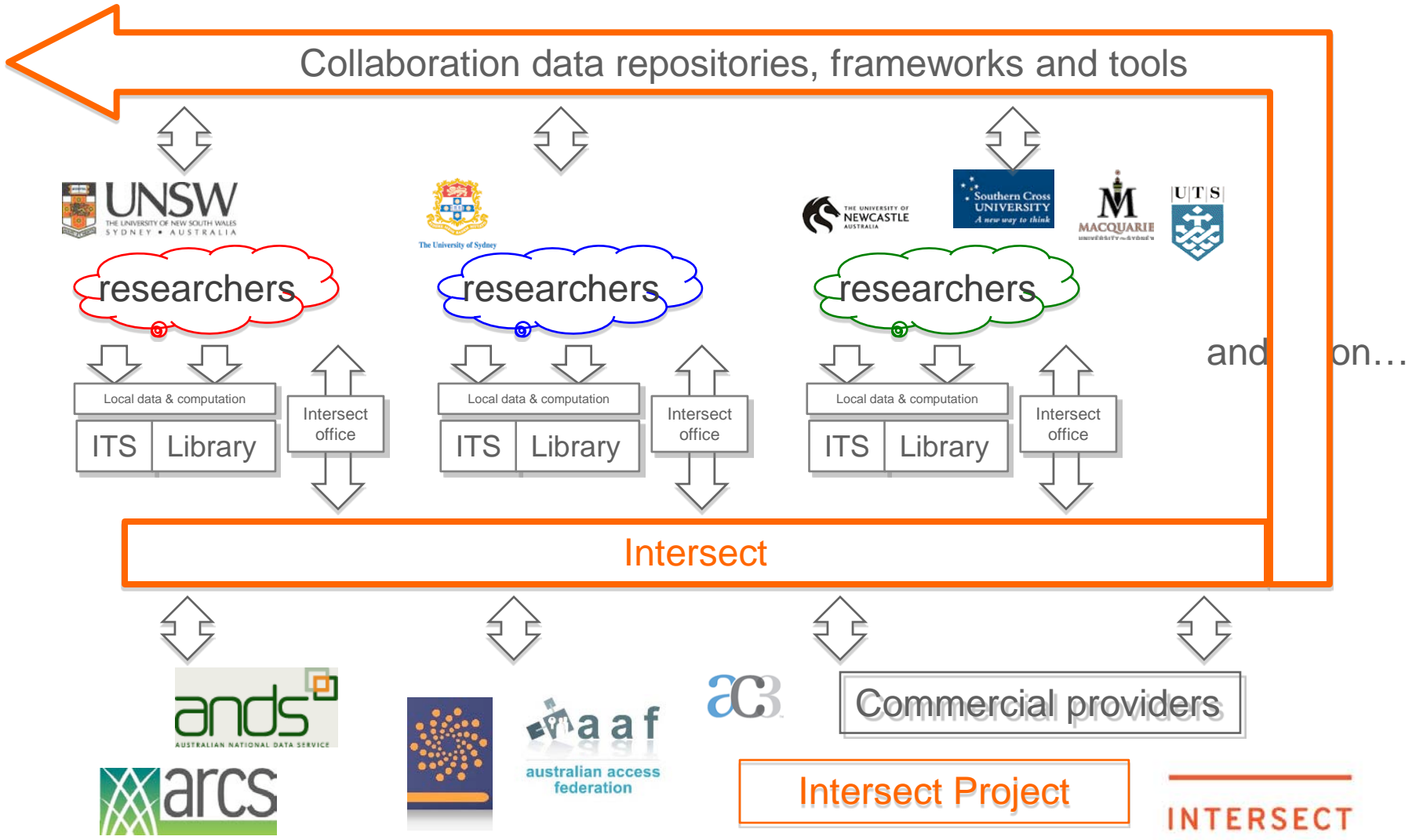


Intersect: background details

- Is the peak eResearch body for NSW
- Formally commenced in June 2008
 - Really just getting underway now.
 - I started a few weeks ago.
- Members are:
 - USyd, UNSW, UTS, Macquarie, Newcastle, SCU, SIRCA
 - Others under discussion
- Received \$2.8M NSW state government funding over three years for establishment
- NSW member of ARCS
 - Supporting other PfC activities: ANDS, NCI, AAF, ...



Intersect: A conceptual view



Intersect: Services + Projects

Intersect: Services + Projects

- Data Management:
 - All the good stuff we will talk about today
 - Repository development, hosting, tools etc
 - Authorisation and security etc
 - Assistance with research data management plans
- Computation:
 - High performance computing, ...
- Collaboration:
 - Tools, hosting, social+technical networking, ...
- IT Project Management:
 - Scoping, sourcing, coding, management, ...
- Aggregation of external services:
 - Pfc services, commercial services, data and tools,
- eResearch Uptake:
 - Advocacy, training, awareness, helpdesk, ...

In close coordination with members: IT centres, libraries, DVCRs, collaborating partners, ...

INTERSECT



Intersect: Services + Projects

- Intersect will carry out IT projects to deploy eResearch solutions for its members
 - Once a project has been completed, its ongoing maintenance will be a part of the Intersect service
- Build a sustained internal capability and contribute to the global eResearch technology base
 - Over time, project deployment becomes more efficient
- Projects will be prioritised by all the usual factors:
 - Research impact and priorities, project value, Intersect's capacity, ...
- NeAT projects eg DataMINX, etc
- Other projects contributing to the company's mission



Current status: embryonic

- Staff: 8
- Premises:
 - no, but under negotiation. Will be in the Sydney CBD.
- Services:
 - have adopted some, eg interface to ac3.
 - we are currently surveying to establish member priorities. When you see the survey, please respond and encourage others to do likewise.
- Projects:
 - Projects committee has just started meeting and formulating its strategy. Next will be to select...



Controversy section...

- Some observations on “research data management”
- From the perspective of someone who:
 - Has dealt with large amounts of data over time
 - Has built tools for customers worldwide to manage their data
 - Is new to the eResearch community



Research data management - Observation 1

- Many aspects of research data management are common with data management in general.
 - Not all researchers have “special needs”
 - We should look more to tools, methods and lessons from outside the eResearch domain



Research data management – Observation 2

- Data management is not sexy – it is, and always will be, a chore for most people
 - even many experienced information technology workers only consider data management when their data becomes difficult to manage, or when they have to



Research data management – Observation 3

3. Manual annotation of metadata is extremely time expensive
 - Have you annotated your home digital photo collection?
 - Do you always fill in the “properties” of your documents?



Research data management – Observation 4

4. “Proper” management of research data will only become widespread if:
- it is legislated eg ARC rules, **AND**
 - it is easier than not doing so: researchers have (and know they have) the necessary tools, infrastructure and support at their fingertips, **AND**
 - each individual researcher understands the concrete benefits to themselves, and the broader community: quicker results, new research methods, more publications, ...

required + easy + valued



Concluding Remarks

- Intersect is funded by its members and the NSW and Federal governments to support and improve eResearch in NSW
- Intersect aims to build a capability and a reputation for delivering eResearch solutions
- We would like you to come to us with your eResearch requirements (soon).



Thank you