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The Library within a University of Sydney research support service

Rowan Brownlee

r.brownlee@library.usyd.edu.au

<http://escholarship.library.usyd.edu.au/dpa/>

Research data management seminar, 14 January 2009



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Tools and Frameworks for Research Collaboration

ICT project initiated by Jim Richardson

TFRC Project board includes Research Office, Library, ICT, researchers

- build engagement with University executive and researchers
- survey to discover needs (partnership with Intersect)
- plan storage compatible with national approaches
- pilot data management activities
- explore provision of a common initial contact point for eResearch support.

TFRC content on these slides provided by Jim Richardson, ICT eResearch Relationship Manager



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TFRC - Survey

- eResearch practices, requirement and attitudes
- grows out of Margaret Henty survey at Melbourne, UQ, QUT
 - http://www.apsr.edu.au/orca/investigating_data_management.pdf
- University of Sydney and several other Intersect partner universities
- Seeking ethics approval to allow use for research into eResearch as well as for support and services development



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TFRC – Research data storage

- Working on requirements for general research data storage with ANDS/ARCS/Intersect
- Pilot project - Australian Stuttering Research Centre
 - questionnaires; audio and video recordings
 - requirements assessment carried out with resourcing from Intersect
 - Mediaflux selected as platform
 - implementation to commence around late January 2009



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TFRC – eResearch contact point

- Many researchers, different areas, different stages, interested in eResearch support
- Multiple potential support bodies:
 - University
 - ICT, Library, Research Office, Dean of Graduate Studies, Records Management
 - Digital Innovation Unit, Support staff in faculties, schools, centres, ...
 - Intersect / ac3
 - ARCS, NCI
 - ANDS, NeAT
- Aim:
 - A contact point offering initial advice if researchers don't already know where to go or who to ask



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Library within a University research support service

What does eResearch support & data management have to do with Libraries?

How does what we do and what we want to do map to research support?

- Describing Library capabilities for eResearch support
 - What do we do?
 - Why do we do it?
 - How do we relate to other service providers?
 - What will we do next?



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People

- Established network of Faculty Liaison Librarians
- Roles
 - Service promotion and referral?
 - Data management awareness raising?
 - Assistance with planning?
- Skills
 - Which skills map to eResearch support right now?
 - Targets for future skill's development? What is out of scope?
- Training and support
 - Who is training the data librarians? (Alma Swan)



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Service development – Metadata?

- Digital preservation?
 - Library preservation metadata skills?
- Metadata for generic search and discovery?
 - Collaborative metadata application process?
 - Automated/semi-automated processes
 - Instrument... domain specialist... preservation... Bibliographic
- What are the mandatory minimums required to enable
 - Immediate use by the original research team
 - Management over time for reuse
- Many documentation standards



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Service development

- Libraries and data archiving?
 - What are the requirements? What do we need to know?
 - Informed by
 - ANDS (reference model development)
 - ERA++ (data collections as research outputs)
 - Library involvement depends on persistent and institutionally backed relationships between Libraries and data scientists.
 - Leverage the *idea* of the Library as persistent, ongoing
 - Idea → reality requires skills development & partnerships



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Service relationships

- Library services as elements of institutional research support systems.
 - Academic workflows enabling curation-by-stealth
 - No more manual submission
- Relationships between data management and archiving service
 - Data archiving services
 - What are the requirements? What do we need to know?

Marketing and communication

- Stories that make sense to us and which we can relate to others
- No more jargon



Data collections as publications

What would enable a Library to manage a data collection like a publication? (Peter Turner)

- Peer review, documentation, versioning & authority
 - enables bibliographic management based on trust relationships
 - helps libraries understand what needs to be known to enable ongoing access
 - relates general services to specialist infrastructure
- Data collections/publications to enrich undergraduate learning experience (Martin Lewis)