Mike Briers: Globalising social science based e-research services: Some benefits and challenges

Abstract

Currently providing finance related e-research services to 30 Australian and New Zealand Member Universities, SIRCA is looking to expand this service globally with its first international university subscription achieved recently. This internationalisation initiative has brought with it many challenges but the benefits to academic research are great and global in scale. This presentation will outline how SIRCA has dealt with some of these challenges, the type of research that is now made possible by the service and the key challenges ahead.

Working with the world’s largest repository of financial, economic and news related data (over 200TB uncompressed), SIRCA has developed world leading expertise in the management of highly granular (to the milli-second), distributed (global coverage from over 2,000 sources), dynamic (always available), and complex (constant interrelated format changes) time series data. Since many of these data attributes and associated capabilities are not unique among social scientists, SIRCA is seeking to establish closer collaborative ties with other social science groups facing similar challenges. To this end, this talk will also outline some opportunities for expanding existing research, development and innovation activities both locally and internationally.

About the speaker

Dr Mike Briers is an Associate Professor within the School of Business at UNSW and is fully seconded to SIRCA as its Chief Executive Officer. SIRCA is a not-for-profit research and innovation company established in collaboration with 30 Australian and New Zealand Member Universities. SIRCA has become the leading provider of eResearch services for the academic financial research community internationally. With significant investment and collaboration over a ten year period from the Commonwealth (notably via SII), University Members and major international industry partners, this position has been built on a platform of best practice data management, access and delivery services underpinned by a commercial strength test, development, production and support system environment.
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