The Role of DEST: Opportunities and Responsibilities for Research Data

Long-lived Collections: The Future of Australia's Research Data
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Focus of Talk

- DEST's role
- Converging Agendas
- PMSEIC Data for Science Working Group
- Elements of DEST's Response
  - Research Quality Framework & ASHER
  - Australian Access Federation
  - Accessibility Framework
  - The Australian National Data Service
DEST Role

- to engage stakeholders in building a trusted collaborative environment to collectively address issues of common interest
- to ensure that the policy and funding framework provides the right environment and incentives to encourage excellent research and foster greater collaboration and utilisation of data
Strategic Directions

• Research infrastructure and data should be accessible:
  – to a range of users – research community, government, states and territories; and
  – under controlled, authenticated but simple access regimes.
• Access should be independent of location – network infrastructure should therefore be robust and reliable.
• Data should be discoverable, accessible, managed and long-lived.
• The effect of the investments by governments and research communities in research and education should be maximised.
Converging Agendas

Network
Australian Research and Education Network

High Performance Computing Capability
National Computational Infrastructure

Data Management
PMSEIC Data for Science Working Group
Accessibility Framework
Research Quality Framework
Australian National Data Service
Interoperation and Collaboration Infrastructure (soon to be known as the Australian Research Collaboration Service)

Access & Security
Australian Access Federation

Coordination & Collaboration
e-Research Coordinating Committee
NCRIS Platforms for Collaboration
The PMSEIC Data for Science Working Group

• Suggested a cooperative, Whole of Government approach within a National Strategic Framework
• Key Recommendations included:
  – National network of data repositories
  – Improve sharing and collaboration
  – Increase skilled workforce for best practice in data management
Addressing PMSEIC Data for Science recommendations

- Research Quality Framework
- Australian Access Federation
- Accessibility Framework
- Australian National Data Services
Research Quality Framework (RQF)

• Funding from the Systemic Infrastructure Initiative (SII) has supported the development and deployment of digital repository technology eg. ARROW, APSR, RUBRIC.
• The Australian Scheme for Higher Education Repositories (ASHER) has provided $25.5 million for
  – purchase of hardware and software to establish or update a repository, and
  – support to meet the workload involved with populating the institution’s repository in order to make research outputs available for RQF assessment.
Australian Access Federation

• The Minister approved $4.8 million to establish the Australian Access Federation (AAF).

• The AAF:
  – aims to provide a national authentication and authorisation framework for higher education and research;
  – will play a critical role in ensuring seamless access to research infrastructure and research outputs;
  – builds on SII investments; and
  – will also be developed so that it can be extended to the schools and vocational education and training sectors over time.
Accessibility Framework

• Accessibility to publicly funded research outputs is fundamental to the process of scholarship.

• The Accessibility Framework is about ensuring that publicly funded research outputs are accessible by the public, by government, by business.

• It includes elements of:
  – Technology;
  – Policy; and
  – A robust regulatory framework
Australian National Data Service (ANDS)

- a key component of the Platforms for Collaboration
  - to deliver greater access to Australia's research data assets in forms that support easier and more effective data use and re-use
- on-going consultation for a consensus view of the services ANDS should offer
  - Technical Working Group has been working on detailed descriptions of the services
ANDS Objectives

• Improve data management systems;
• Improve data collection and management practices;
• Improve the national data management environment;
• Enhance data discovery and access;
• Increase data re-use; and
• Enable Australian participation in international and multidisciplinary research.
Proposed ANDS Activities within Data Commons context

courtesy Andrian Burton, Markus Buchhorn, Chris Blackall
Proposed ANDS Activities within Data Commons context (2)
Proposed ANDS Activities within Data Commons context (3)

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Questions?