The AERES (Australian eResearch Sustainability Survey) project, conducted by APAC and APSR, is surveying data-intensive communities to establish current capabilities for the storage, access and long-term management of research data. The University of Melbourne is working with APAC and APSR in improving support infrastructure for disciplines involved in eResearch, auditing a dozen data-intensive research communities across a variety of disciplines and documenting the data management issues of each.

The APSR Partner Programs include test beds where solutions to digital continuity and sustainability are developed and then shared back to the sector at large as tools, applications, guidelines, checklists and through outreach events.

The University of Queensland developed the Fez software for the Fedora repository system, underpinning its institutional repository, UQ eSpace. The software capability has been demonstrated during an extensive local research quality assessment exercise.

Included in Fez’s features are: use of MODS to improve interoperability, capacity for successful data exchange with DSpace, integration of MAMS/Shibboleth authentication and statistical reporting. Canned searches are available for authors, keywords and subject terms. Current statistics supply the top 50 authors and papers, as well as a breakdown of statistics by latest week, year, all years and so on.

‘Suggest’, supplying the number of matches expected before a user commits to a search, is available. Search engine crawling is enabled. Automatic archival-to-web-format datastream (file) conversion for images is working well with results in four image versions - thumbnail, preview, Web and archival.

UQ eSpace can be found at: www.espace.library.uq.edu.au

The Sydney eScholarship Repository is the institutional repository service for the University of Sydney, and works in collaboration with other discipline-based repositories at the University. As part of the APSR program the Sydney eScholarship repository is assisting with the development of an iSpheres connector to provide some added front-end functionality to DSpace, and to enable some functional interoperability between DSpace and discipline-based image banks. This work is part of the development of the interoperability core, and will be completed by the end of 2006.

The SUGAR (Sustainable Guidelines for Australian Repositories) project will provide profiled advice to individuals seeking to create digital collections. Working in association with the NLA PADI service, SUGAR will be given a web interface for simple searching.

Work is nearing completion on the FIDAS (Fieldwork Data Sustainability) project. Incorporating the FieldHelper tool set, this will allow researchers to retain more contextual information about the data they collect in the field. A user’s workshop (for researchers) is planned for the end of 2006 at the University of Sydney.

Sydney eScholarship Repository can be found at: ses.library.usyd.edu.au

Demetrius is the Australian National University’s (ANU) repository containing thousands of eprints, theses, images and other miscellanea across all disciplines. The ANU has a full time code committer on the global DSpace project. Manakin, a new front-end tool to be bundled with DSpace, allows for a more sophisticated and elegant presentation of materials held in repositories, and the ANU has been invited to contribute to this international project.

The ANU also continues to provide assistance and technical advice to other universities over DSpace installation issues. Work is progressing on the Digital Scholar’s Workbench, which helps manage materials and simplifies their deposit into a repository and re-use in diverse eResearch contexts. There is now a working model and strong interest is being shown from other universities.

Demetrius can be found at: demetrius.anu.edu.au
Sustainable Repositories for Australian Partnership

Australian Partnership for Sustainable Repositories (APSR) is a centre of excellence for the management of digital collections.

The Digital Sustainability Program addresses the challenge of ensuring continuity of access to valuable digital assets such as journal articles, digital theses, research data, learning objects and digital objects (images, recordings and multimedia) through the expertise of the National Library of Australia.

Staff of the National Library have now completed the PRESTA (PREMIS Requirement Statement) Project. The object of this was to develop a requirements specification for preservation metadata using the PREMIS model.

A new working prototype of AONS (Automated Obsolescence Notification System) is in place, and will be demonstrated to stakeholders during the second half of 2006. AONS alerts repository managers to any files the repository is holding in formats which are, or about to be, obsolete. The system works across all repository softwares.

AONS is a collaborative project involving all partners.

Details about these and other projects can be found at the website: www.apsr.edu.au

The APSR National Outreach Program performs a crucial role for the higher education sector by providing opportunities for skills development, knowledge sharing and networking for Australian researchers and information professionals.

APSR has continued its successful outreach program in 2006 with several very popular workshops and events.

Open Repositories 2006 held at the University of Sydney explored many technical and conceptual aspects of creating a repository.

The Successful Repository was a well-attended and stimulating day of presentations, discussions and networking focused on what makes repositories work.

In 2007, APSR plans to build on its strengths in this area with an augmented program aimed at building the skills underlying eResearch and digital data management in the higher education sector.

Full details about all future outreach programs, and reports (including pictures) from previous events can be found at: www.apsr.edu.au

APSR is addressing strategic issues of digital sustainability, eResearch facilitation, research data and repository management and system development through a coordinated set of programs and projects.

The partnership provides support across the higher education sector by developing a strong eResearch capability and research data management and sharing.

APSR is addressing the need for digital sustainability, except in the case of ephemeral objects.

VPSR is a collaborative project involving all partners.

APSR is addressing strategic issues of digital sustainability, except in the case of ephemeral objects.

Australian Partnership for Advanced Computing (APAC) partners:

The Australian National University
The University of Sydney
The University of Queensland
National Library of Australia
Australian Partnership for Advanced Computing (APAC)

APSR is also working with associated partners:

University of Technology, Sydney
The University of Melbourne