

CAUL Strategic Plan Report to CAUL

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Section	1. Information Resources
Action	4. Continue the development of the Australian Academic Research Library Network (AARLIN) Project
Responsibility	Earle Gow
Time-line	December 2004
Activity since last report	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ex Libris announced the planned release of upgraded version of MetaLib Software (Version 3) which would address problems in existing software. This would be available in early September 2004, with progressive implementation on AARLIN sites commencing 20 September 2004. 2. Soft launch of AARLIN commenced in May at La Trobe University and since then 5 other libraries have 'gone live' – Monash, Murdoch, Swinburne, New England and James Cook. Three more are scheduled for September 2004 and another 3 by 3 December 2004. 3. Meeting of AARLIN Reference Group held in Melbourne on 16 July, to consider draft Business Plan and to receive reports from La Trobe and Monash universities on the 'roll out' of AARLIN to academic staff and students. 4. Existing AARLIN members surveyed on their interest to continue participation in the AARLIN Project beyond 2004. 12 members expressed a desire to do so and negotiations have commenced with Ex Libris and La Trobe University to review existing licence and maintenance agreements and to determine the administrative and legal framework within which the AARLIN consortium would operate from 2005-2007. Process to be finalised in November 2004.
Achievements since last report	<p>AARLIN has moved from the project phase to an operating system.</p> <p>The expected outcome of the AARLIN project was the development of a national portal framework which will incorporate the following components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An enterprise portal facility which will allow each member of the AARLIN consortium to direct sets of resources (or "information landscapes"), such as subject-specific lists of databases and web sites, to specific categories of users within their institution, and allow users to create a personalized workspace collecting together their most frequently used resources. Completed • A simultaneous search gateway demonstrably capable of correctly searching, displaying and retrieving the appropriate records and information from diverse resources using the Z39.50, HTTP and other protocols via a uniform query interface. Completed • An alerting, or Selective Dissemination of Information service,

	<p>which can be configured by end users who wish to be kept informed of new resources (e.g. articles or books) in their fields of interest. Completed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seamless access to a document requesting facility among the cooperating universities for authorized users, including transfer of relevant user and item metadata. Completed • Context sensitive linking software using the OpenURL framework to provide end users with “extended” services and deep linking to full text documents. Completed • The capability of integrating with local authentication systems (including LDAP directories), which will contain appropriate profiling information enabling the respective institutions to “push” relevant information resources or information landscapes to their end users according to the user's profile(s) and the profiles of the group to which the user belongs. At the same time, end users will be able to refine their information landscapes by adding additional relevant resources themselves. Completed • Integration with IP-based authentication via EZproxy web server and/or other mandatory proxy authentication systems. Completed • Selective as well as comprehensive listings of available databases, catalogues, web sites and other electronic information resources. from which users may make selections for frequent use. Completed • In the longer term, integration with university wide portals and e-course management systems such as WebCT and Blackboard, using a single sign-on. For 2005, as with Metalib Version 3, Ex Libris will provide the authentication as a separate module to Metalib and SFX, making it easier to integrate into a university-wide portal.
Publicity, reports, publications since last report	Presentation on AARLIN at plenary session at 25 th IATUL Conference, May 30-June 3 2004, Kraków, Poland.
Plan for forthcoming activity	Continue to develop AARLIN as a key component of quality service in member institutions, and enhance its reputation as the leader in this field.
Recommendations to CAUL	Note the successful completion of the ARC/DEST/Universities/National Library funded project – AARLIN.