



# RUBRIC

## Regional Universities Building Research Infrastructure Collaboratively

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GOOD UNIVERSITIES GUIDES  
**Australia's  
University of the Year  
2000 - 2001**  
DEVELOPING THE e-UNIVERSITY





## **RUBRIC bid**

- **The RUBRIC project proposal was submitted to DEST under the criteria:**

**“Maximising access to digital resources in Australian universities, especially regional universities”**

- **Funding needed for regional universities to build capability and have adequate staff to monitor and deploy emerging best practice**
- **Partnering and mentoring for assisted take-up of emerging technologies in regional areas**



## RUBRIC Partners

- Confirmed:
  - University of Southern Queensland (lead)
  - University of New England
  - Sunshine Coast University
  - University of Newcastle (cross-sectoral with IRUA)
  - Massey University (NZ)
- Silent:
  - James Cook University



## Why these partners?

- USQ, UNE and USC - existing customers of VTLS with established and extensive working relationships with each other
- USC is a member of VTLS international user group for Library Management System
- University of Newcastle represents IRUA members (Flinders, Macquarie and Murdoch Universities have committed)
- Massey University has an existing relationship with USQ



# Why USQ as lead?

- Leverage off existing repository projects running in the DeC and Library
- Explore synergies with other regional and like-minded organizations and provide leadership and mentoring
- Key staff already abreast of national and international repository issues
- Keen to bring regional issues to the table (feed into ongoing development nationally)
- Core mechanism to support research mission



# ePrints

- <http://eprints.usq.edu.au>
- Largely student work at present – addresses identified need
- Plan to include
  - Journal articles
  - Book chapters
  - Technical reports
  - Working papers
  - Conference papers
  - Student papers at defined levels of study not eligible for ADT
  - <http://www.usq.edu.au/library/infoabout/aboutlib/policies/eprints.htm>



# ICE

- Integrated Content Environment
- <http://www.usq.edu.au/dec/staff/ice.htm>
- Templated data entry
- Repository management software
- Conversion software
- Test-bed for standardization



# RUBRIC Project Outline

- There are three core areas of work:
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> generation repository infrastructure, building on ePrints work
  - Data lifecycle management building on ICE work
  - e-Framework developments as a national strategy regarding standards and interoperability



## RUBRIC will

- Address challenges faced by regional and smaller universities in establishing research infrastructure
- Deploy best practice emerging from the first round of ARIIC SII projects, ARROW, APSR, MAMS and ADT, collectively known as FRODO (Federated Repositories of Digital Objects)
- Develop sustainable infrastructure



## RUBRIC will achieve

- Tangible, demonstrable “exemplars” at USQ and then partner sites
- Provision of a vehicle for an assisted take-up service with other regional universities
- Strengthen national and international partnerships (NZ)
- Ensure regional repositories can be harvested by national discovery services
- Explore effectiveness of the e-Framework for planning, dissemination, implementation



# Sustainable Infrastructure

- Growing need
- Address cultural change issues
- Awareness raising
- Keeping regional areas abreast of developments
- Ensuring ongoing ability to participate / support universities' mission to research
- Foster and sustain collaborative work
- Integration of various repository solutions



# Building capability

- Provide dedicated staff to develop regional infrastructure
- Assisted take-up service and related support services to ensure equity of access in regional areas
- Improved knowledge for more effective participation in national developments
- Preventative measure to “digital divide”