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# CEIRC Review

Datasets Coordinators Meeting 4 February

2008

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# Outline

- Rationale
- CEIRC background
- Issues for the review
- Timeline
- Process
- Findings
- Recommendations
- Next steps

# Rationale

- 10<sup>th</sup> birthday
- Strategy
  - Expand scope?
  - Reduce scope?
  - What could be done improved?
  - What's missing?
- Viability
- Operations
- Legal issues, risk exposure

# Background – what is CEIRC?

- CEIRC is the name of a program
- And a committee
- This is about the program
- The committee advises CAUL on issues affecting the program
- Datasets Coordinators are on the committee and play a key role in the program

# Membership -- 2008

- 39 CAUL
- 8 CONZUL
- 27 HE and government research organisations in Australia and New Zealand

# Some numbers

- Around 140 products
- About 100 vendors
- About \$22 m in 2006
  - USD 15.8 m
  - GBP 3.1 m
  - AUD 1.3 m

# The business

- Opt in / opt out
- Flexible, lightly governed
- Responsive communication
  - Lots of emails
  - Website
- Variations in billing
  - Member to CEIRC
  - Member to Publisher
  - Member to Subscription Agent

# Contracts, licenses – variety!

- Member has own contract based on standard CEIRC agreement – include variations locally
- CAUL signs Heads of Agreement
- Agreement signed by CAUL on behalf of all members

# Issues -- Operations

- Program costs and benefits
- Efficiency and workflow
- Communication
- Documentation, record keeping
- Staffing
- Negotiation
- Business continuity
- Costs and benefits of external members

# Issues -- Risk

- Any risks arising from CAUL having unincorporated status?
- Heads of Agreements and contracts signed by CAUL
- Financial management
- Audit
- Compliance with legislation and regulations

# Issues – Program future

- Program viability
- Expanding scope of activities
- Reducing scope of activities
- Opportunities for collaboration with other consortia – any cost/benefit?

# Timeline

- Early Aug 2007: RFQ issued
- Sept 2007: Consultant (Nigel Penny) appointed
- Nov 2007: Interim report to CAUL Executive and CEIRC Committee
- Jan 2008: Final report
- Feb 2008: CEIRC Committee and CAUL Exec will address recommendations
- Apr 2008: CAUL meeting

# Process

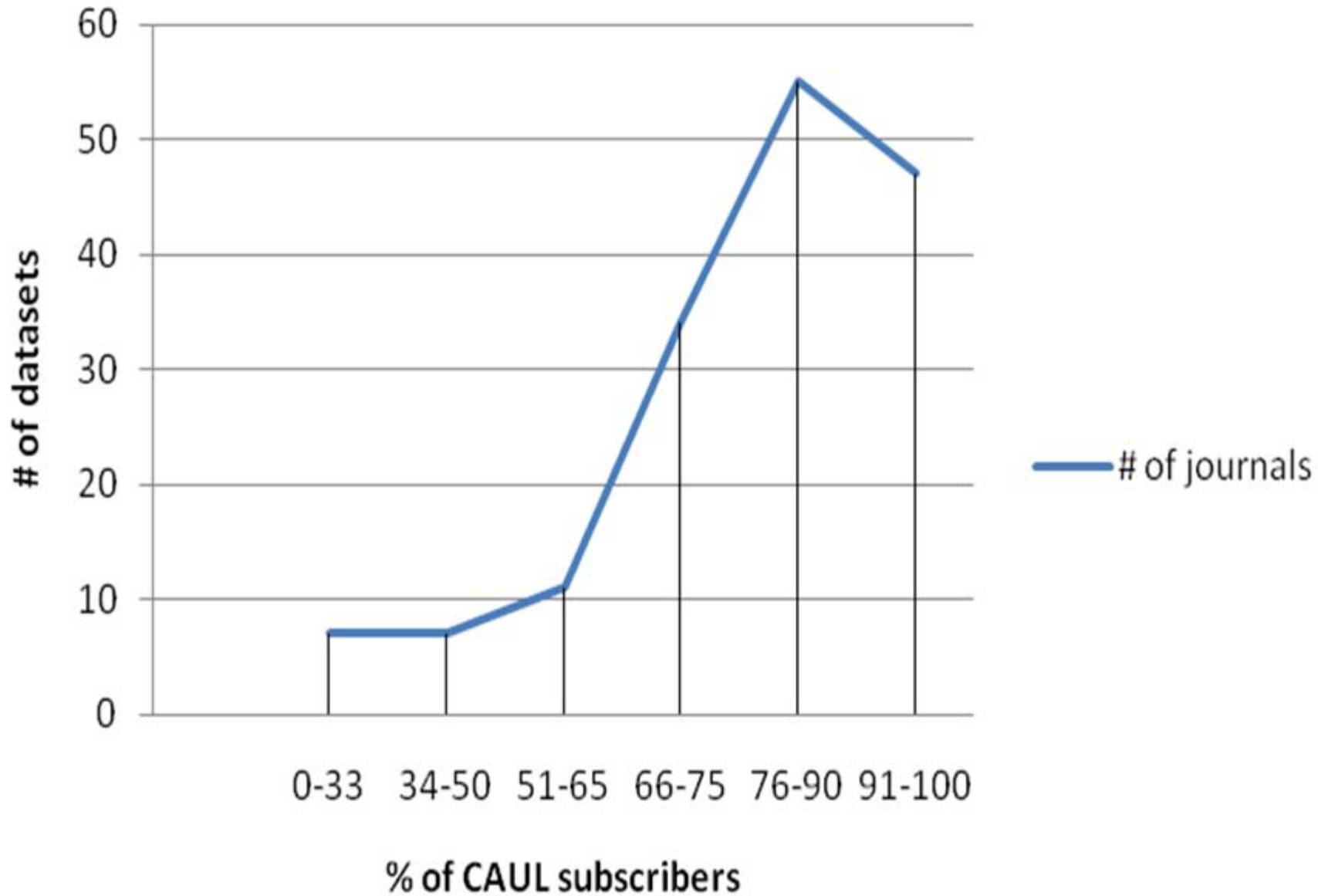
- Consultant spent two days in CAUL Office
- Regular meetings with CAUL President and CAUL EO
- Survey of vendors
- Survey of Datasets Coordinators
- Legal advice
- Interim report identified areas for further investigation

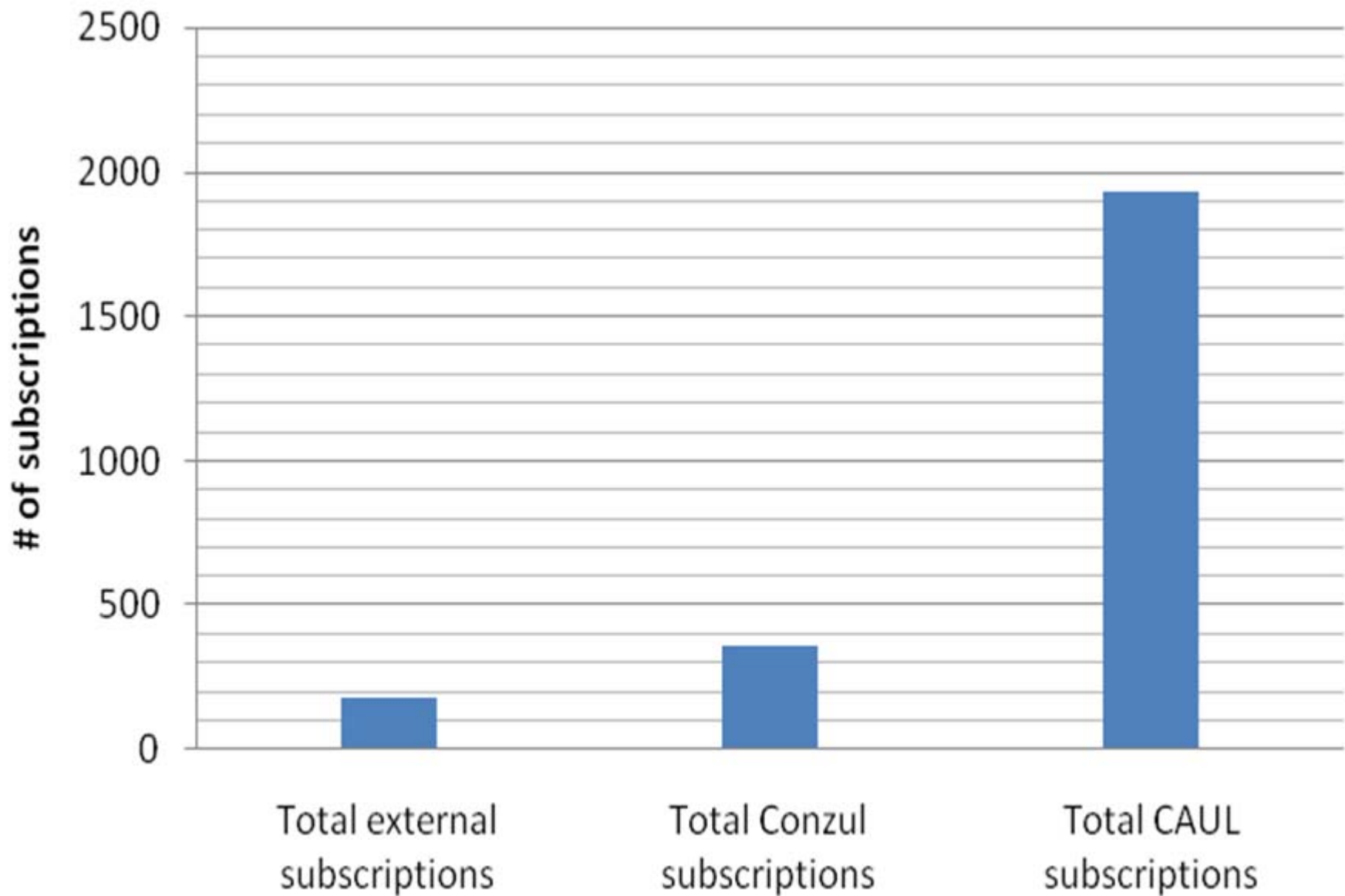
# Findings

- These are findings
- CAUL Executive has not discussed them
- CEIRC Committee has not discussed them

# Findings -- usage

- CAUL and CONZUL are the major beneficiaries
- For 55 datasets, CAUL members constitute 76-90% of total subscribers
- Only 14 datasets where CAUL are less than 50%
- CONZUL is significant for its size too

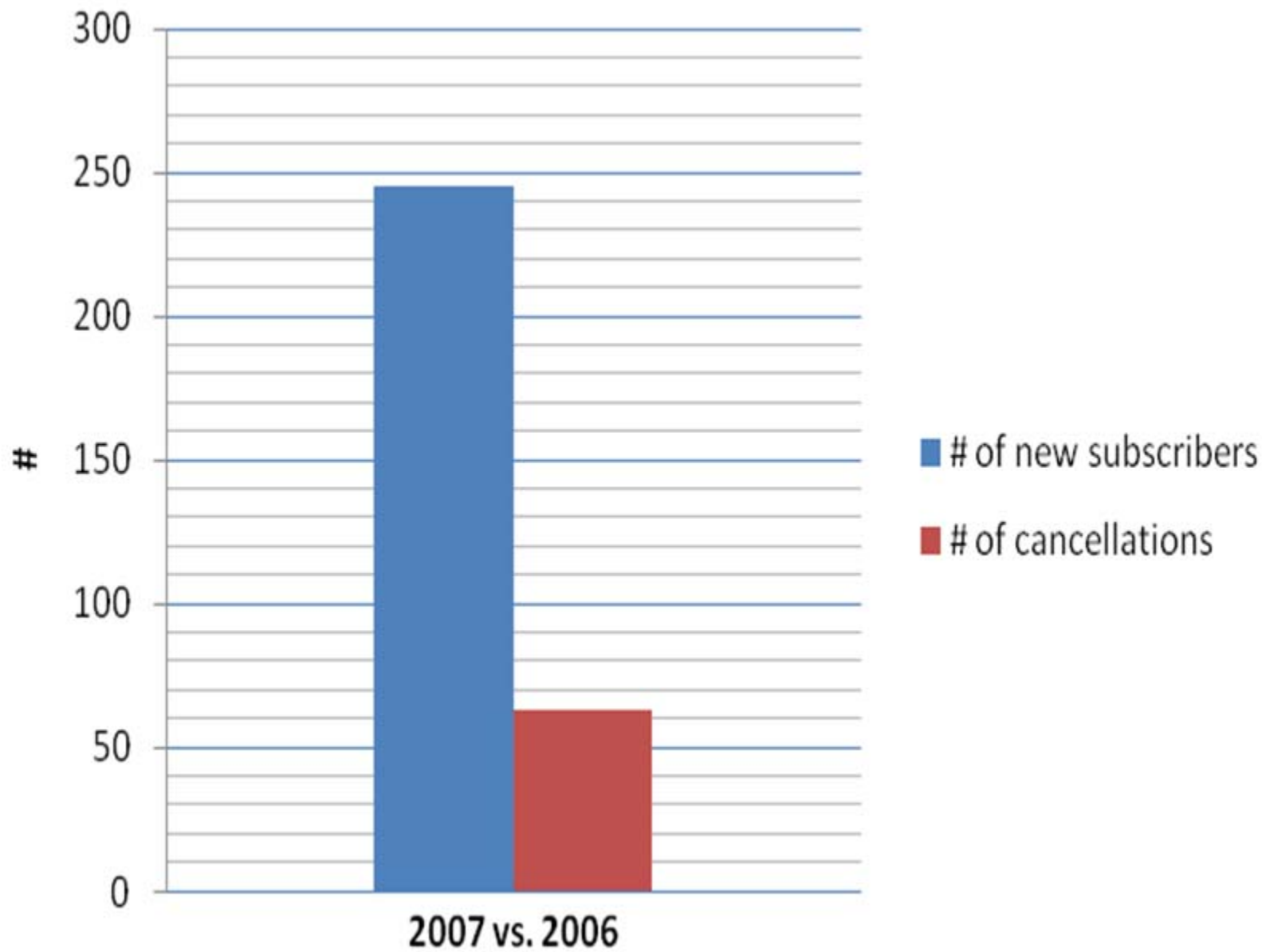




# Usage – Take up and renewal

- Significant variation
- 33% taken by 5 members or less
- 53% taken by 10 members or less
- Low cancellation rate





# Findings – DSC survey

- High levels of satisfaction
- Website major cause of concern
- Understanding complexity of vendor offerings a concern for some (not a criticism of program)
- Larger institutions believe they can get bigger discounts
- Generally smaller institutions seem most satisfied

# Findings -- Vendors

- Caution – small sample
- Offshore vendors value CEIRC Program
- Onshore – mixed reaction
- Concern that members do not understand offers
- “There is a view that financial savings achieved over Vendor ‘list pricings’ are not necessarily enhanced through the CEIRC Program

# Findings -- Risk management

- Risks are low
- Excellent record keeping avoids problems
- No TPA issues

# Findings -- Operations

- Highly efficient, rigorous
- Manual workflow, lots of cutting and pasting of emails
- Investigate software to assist
- CAUL EO spending up to 60% of time on CEIRC

# Recommendations

- Investigate enhancing value
  - Negotiation
  - More communication with members about offerings
- Don't expand membership
- Improve reporting
- Improve web site
- Software for efficient workflow
- Concentrate on high take up subs