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\textsuperscript{th} 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
The chart shows the number of subscriptions for different categories:

- **Total external subscriptions**: A small number of subscriptions.
- **Total Conzul subscriptions**: A moderate number of subscriptions.
- **Total CAUL subscriptions**: A significantly large number of subscriptions.

The y-axis represents the number of subscriptions, ranging from 0 to 2500.
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