

18 March 2009

CAIRSS – supporting access to university research

CAUL has appointed the University of Southern Queensland, through the Australian Digital Futures Institute (ADFI) within the Division of Academic Information Services (DAIS) to undertake its new institutional repository support service. The service commenced officially on March 16, 2009.

Australian universities have been implementing digital repositories since the ADT (Australian Digital Theses project) was funded by the federal government in 1997/98. These repositories were limited to higher degree theses using software developed by Virginia Tech, but since 2002, have been migrating to other repository platforms and widening the content to all the universities' research output. By late 2008, 32 universities had a working repository. ePrints, ARROW, DSpace and Digital Commons are the most commonly used repository software systems.

Repository developments were supported by federal government funding between 2004 and 2008: the ARROW project – Australian Research Repositories Online to the World <http://arrow.edu.au/>; Australian Partnership for Sustainable Repositories (APSR) <http://www.apsr.edu.au/index.html> ; and, RUBRIC (Regional Universities Building Research Infrastructure Collaboratively) <http://rubric.edu.au/>

The Government is committed to enhancing access to research through the use of digital repositories, particularly through funding allocated under ASHER (Australian Scheme For Higher Education) which will allow higher education providers to develop their data systems to prepare for the Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) initiative. It will also enable higher education providers to make their research outputs more widely available to other researchers, business and the community. Through ASHER, the Government is providing \$25.5 million over three calendar years (2007-09) to assist higher education providers to establish and maintain digital repositories. This will allow universities to place their research outputs, including journal articles and less traditional outputs such as digitised artworks or x-ray crystallography images, in an accessible digital store for a variety of purposes, including assessment of research.

<http://www.innovation.gov.au/ScienceAndResearch/Pages/ASHERandIAP.aspx>

The CAIRSS service is being funded for two years, with the approval of Department of Innovation (DIISR), with monies remaining from the successful ARROW project, supplemented by CAUL member subscriptions.

The service will:

- ▶ provide a forum to represent the collective interests of repository managers around Australia; support emerging areas of activity;
- ▶ support and develop toolkits for copyright and institutional repositories;
- ▶ provide best practice and policy advice for areas such as data migration, metadata, standards compliance, import and export, harvesting, ingest of new forms of digital material;
- ▶ assist with the integration of repositories with the requirements of the ERA and the Higher Education Research Data Collection (HERDC) exercises;
- ▶ assist the understanding of managing copyright issues in the repository environment;
- ▶ provide a watching brief on trends and developments in repositories.

Project Manager and institutional repository specialist is Katy Watson, currently Research Information Systems Coordinator at the University of the Sunshine Coast, one of the two full-time staff in CAIRSS. She will be supported by a small team from the University of Southern Queensland. The copyright element of the service will be provided by Swinburne University. The key personnel are Tim

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McCallum, Technical Officer; Luke Padgett, Copyright Officer; Dr Peter Sefton, Senior Advisor and Professor Alan Smith, USQ delegate.

Behind the service is CAUL's Steering Committee (interim) led by Helen Livingston of the University of South Australia, with Judy Stokker of Queensland University of Technology, Heather Gordon of James Cook University, David Groenewegen of ANDS, the Australian National Data Service and CAUL's Diane Costello.

Andrew Wells
President, CAUL

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ARROW <http://arrow.edu.au/>

CAIRSS Invitation to Offer (service description) <http://www.caul.edu.au/CAIRSS/>

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