

**CAUL Strategic Plan  
Report to CAUL**

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<b>Section</b>	IV. Collaboration and International Engagement
<b>Action</b>	Work with partners in the sector, especially ACODE and CAUDIT
<b>Responsibility</b>	CAUL members
<b>Time-line</b>	Ongoing
<b>Activity since last report</b>	<p><b>Attendance at CAUDIT Meeting</b></p> <p><b>The following was discussed:</b></p> <p><b>eResearch</b></p> <p>The first day was spend on eResearch related matters and the speakers were :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anne Marie Landsdowne, DEST</li> <li>• Nick Tate, University of Queensland – Australian Access Federation (AAF)</li> <li>• Margot Bell, Innovation and Research Branch, DEST</li> <li>• Gerrit Balman, University of Waikato – New Zealand Developments</li> <li>• Rhys Francis, CSIRO, NCRIS Platforms for Collaboration</li> <li>• Andrew Treloar, The Australian Research Enabling environment (ARCHER)</li> <li>• John Ship and Catherine Harboe-Ree</li> </ul> <p><b>NCRIS Funding</b></p> <p>NCRIS platforms for collaboration will include \$25.5m to be available for eResearch. Funding will be for development of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• innovative approaches to solving problems of access to research</li> <li>• policy</li> <li>• technology</li> </ul> <p>There will be limited or no funding for networks. Instead, DEST plans to encourage AARNet to connect more people.</p> <p><b>Research Quality Framework</b></p> <p>For the Research Quality Framework DEST is looking at a central model. The decentralised model has been rejected. The Development Advisory Group preferred a semi-centralised model. To assist Universities with implementation, the Australian Scheme for Higher Education Repositories (ASHER) is providing \$25.5m to support the installation or modification of an organisation’s institutional Repository.</p> <p>DEST will also provide \$16.4 million to Universities under the RQF Implementation Assistance Programme (IAP). The IAP funding will be provided to institutions to support implementation of the RQF. This is a “grand takeover of the world in terms of accessibility to research”. Everything is sent from the repository to DEST.</p> <p>Evidence portfolios are to be sent to DEST. Output will be available from the institutional repository. However, the process does raise issues in terms of access</p>

	<p>and authentication, hence the funding pre-committed to the Australian Access Federation (AAF) reported below.</p> <p>No decisions have been made about the method of submission yet. The copyright issues originally raised by CAUL have been not taken on board and one solution maybe to have a web interface for panels, assessors and institutions. <i>“The copyright issues have nearly killed us (the RQF, sic.)”</i></p> <p><i>What about books?</i> Assessors can arrange for copies through document delivery or buy the book. The options available for the book issue will be explained in time.</p> <p><i>Will DEST collate and provide Citation data centrally?</i> The answer to this is “unknown.”</p> <p><i>Will DEST require the published version?</i> – “Almost certainly 'no.'”</p> <p>Other questions will be answered in the draft specification requirements to be made available in July, 2007.</p> <p>Implementation funding details are firming up see Guidelines for ASHER when released.</p> <p><b>Issues for CAUDIT Directors</b> IT Directors should be involved in the submission of evidence. They should lock down the repositories so they are stable. They should ensure interoperability between the Research Office and repositories.</p> <p>Timeline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 2007       <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Currently           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specification</li> <li>• ASHER</li> <li>• Working with CAUL and AVCC to resolve copyright issues</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Second Quarter           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited number of pre-implementation trials</li> <li>• Draft RQF specifications released</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Third quarter = implementation</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>New Zealand</b> New Zealand Universities are presently doing league tables of completion of higher degrees by research to indicate research quality.</p> <p><b>NCRIS Platforms for Collaboration</b> IT is going to change the world and it has not started yet. 150 years ago, a leading researcher would have known who their leading researchers were. Today there are too many to know them all, hence the need to introduce platforms for collaboration within the eResearch community. Improvements are needed in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data access and discovery, storage and management</li> <li>• Grid enabled technologies and infrastructures</li> <li>• Technical expertise</li> <li>• High performance computing</li> <li>• High capacity communication networks</li> </ul> <p>Related issues: Researcher identity is a major problem. Researchers are not users -</p>
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	<p>they are user/builders.</p> <p><i>The Funding focus has moved from the network to data.</i> The biggest problem in this area is agreement in the community about roles and rights. Do we stop the user/builders from being builders and dumb down the users? There are three different people in eResearch and they do not understand one another.</p> <p>The priorities in research have been and will be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Network and access</li> <li>2. Data</li> <li>3. Storage</li> <li>4. New solutions</li> <li>5. Data management</li> <li>6. Interoperation</li> <li>7. Computing APAC</li> </ol> <p>Funding will be available from a new group known as the National Research Infrastructure Council (NRIC): \$75m is available for groups in these areas. NCRIS will have an Executive Director. A National eResearch Architecture Task Force will be formed. The CAUDIT role is for interoperation and collaboration infrastructure, hence the funding for the AAF.</p> <p>The main problem researcher's face is that most data sits on a desktop and this is not appropriate. Research data will only live if kept by a group that cares about its use.</p> <p><b>Australian Access Federation</b></p> <p><i>The Australian Access Federation (AAF) has been funded \$4.9m to continue the Public Key Infrastructure Project and Meta access.</i> The aim of the project is to provide a national authentication and authorisation framework for higher education and research. The project seeks recognition as playing a critical role in ensuring that research infrastructure and data are accessible. The work of this group builds on SII investments, MAMs and eSecurity.</p> <p>Data should be discoverable, accessible, managed and long-lived. AAF addresses the accessible aim. The debate is mainly how data is managed, who decides where we keep it and who decides how we keep it?</p> <p>Federations are being set up in USA, Canada, Australia, 14 European Union countries. The Australian Access Federation is looking at Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) and Shibboleth.</p> <p>There will be common policies and procedures. Participating members will sign an agreement and submit to an annual audit of the policies and procedures. Expulsion can occur for a breach of the policies and procedures.</p> <p>The Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) will be used mostly in the grid environment. The addition of this functionality sets the Australian Federation apart from others, as they are yet to address the problems solved through PKI.</p> <p>Project Governance - The Steering committee will be formed from the eSecurity framework. Members will be drawn from other SII projects and NZ representatives. The first meeting will be at the eResearch Australasia conference in Brisbane in June. The Federation will be extending to New Zealand.</p> <p>Components of the AAF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Governance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Failure to comply can result in expulsion</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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- PKI
  - 100 point identify check in use by the Australian Government
  - A hierarchy of certificates
  - AusCert provides the root certificate
  - Monash and University of Queensland are doing the PKI testing
- Liaising with three browser vendors
  - Apple with Safari
  - Microsoft
  - One other
- Shibboleth

A question for IT Directors: *Do you have a single identity provider to the University?* If not get one! It would be best to consider commercial and open source options (Shibboleth).

### **Library perspectives**

Librarians hold a 'P' view of the world rather than 'F' (Federated) or 'T' (Technology) view. P stands for people, partnerships, purpose, principles, polices, practices and places to put stuff. Researchers want to publish research, access data, collaborate, have enduring access, re-use data. The ITS Division has people banging on the door asking for someone to manage, store and retrieve data. Librarians have been aware of the data management issues, but were short of solutions.

Librarians see the whole of the research life cycle view. Building expertise in metadata, persistent identifiers, standards, copyright, IP, version control, etc are key issues. Monash are developing Large Research Data Store (LARDS) which will be storing large volumes of data. A future process will involve Librarians doing a data management plan at the commencement of the grant application. This process must assist in providing complete data management for researchers. There will need to be retention and disposal guidelines for the stored data. Hence, the records and archival branch were involved in the Monash process.

### **Hot Topics**

#### **Workforce Planning**

*The demand for IT labour is at an all time high. There is a decline in IT enrolments for undergraduate and higher degrees. There will be increasing future demands driven by gaming, entertainment and corporate web applications.*

Gartner have developed a light IS model which involves the department becoming a consulting organization. The unit effectively becomes expert in:

- IT Leadership
- Architecture development
- Business enhancement
- Technology advancement
- Vendor management

Renewed HR departments are assisting IT and are becoming more flexible to meet these demands. "We don't have to advertise positions". Appointment can take place via invitation. This needs to be reinforced via effective policy. Another approach is to target the women that have left and see what it takes to get them back into the work force

	<p>Other Strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth employment</li> <li>• Indigenous employment</li> <li>• Individualise employment contracts</li> <li>• Improve benefits and market them</li> <li>• Tailored superannuation conditions – less now more in the future</li> <li>• Master becomes coach/mentor</li> <li>• Joint appointments - Faculty – Centre (ie: admin staff with teaching roles)</li> <li>• Rotate HEW 8 and 9 to other areas so they gain more skills and others gain an understanding of IT.</li> </ul> <p><b>RMIT Recovery</b>  <i>Alan Morris presented on the renewal of IT at RMIT following the issues experienced with their much publicised PeopleSoft implementation. He considered topics relevant to the central v decentralised IT debate.</i></p> <p><b>CAUDIT Business Plan</b>  <i>Minister Bishop:  “For too long the University sector has cloistered itself in a web of last century's or indeed 19th century work practices. There is a need for greater responsiveness to technological developments . . . and changes to work patterns that flow from the new communications technologies.”</i></p> <p>59% of expenditure within the University sector is on salaries. There is much efficiency to gain. We must inject value into the sector. This creates a need for not necessarily cheapest, but appropriate standards. There is a need to adopt new goals.</p> <p>Broadly the CAUDIT directions will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intra sector co-operation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Engage DEST, Univ, Australia, AARNET, APAC, HES</li> </ul> </li> <li>• “DEST said CAUDIT is the group they have the most success in co-operating with.”</li> <li>• ACODE and CAUL</li> <li>• External sector co-operation</li> <li>• UCISA, JISC, etc</li> <li>• Engage and support members better</li> </ul> <p><b>AARNet Advisory Board</b>  Regional Research and Education Networks (RREN) have been established. International research and educational networks have been connected. New strategies will be assessed for the Broadband connect Government announcement expected mid-year. AARNet will put in three submissions mid-year.</p> <p>Overall network performance has improved dramatically. EduRoam will not be before the middle of this year before this becomes a truly national service.</p> <p>A new charging model is being developed. The new model needs to be supported by DEST and consistent with the requirements of NCRIS. The new model applies to shareholder customers and a limited number of non-shareholder customers.</p> <p><b>Other matters</b>  A brief workshop was held to identify the IT Directors top 10 issues, these are:</p>
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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Staffing and workforce planning</li> <li>2. Service management</li> <li>3. Project portfolio and risk management</li> <li>4. Governance and IT Strategic Planning</li> <li>5. Business continuity and disaster recovery</li> <li>6. Identity management, authentication, Authorisation and access</li> <li>7. Security</li> <li>8. Information management: Storage Archiving and records management</li> <li>9. Funding and resourcing</li> <li>10. Administrative systems Administration, Student ERP and management</li> </ol> <p>John Lockwood presented on the progress on benchmarking. The new database driven web-site is in production and previously gathered data on University profiles, networking, service desks and multimedia services will be made available.</p> <p>There was an update from the standing committee on purchasing relating to the new Microsoft agreement, and progress of negotiations with other Vendors.</p>
<b>Achievements since last report</b>	Notes above.
<b>Publicity, reports, publications since last report</b>	As circulated via cross-posted emails.
<b>Plan for forthcoming activity</b>	Joint meeting of CAUL, CAUDIT ACODE (CCA) Brisbane, July, 2007
<b>CAUL budget implications</b>	Nil.
<b>Recommendations to CAUL</b>	To note the report and discussions.