Research Infrastructure and Support

Paul Sherlock
Chair, CAUDIT
Briefing for the CAUL Meeting
26 March 2010
CAUDIT’s involvement across the e-Research landscape

- Has been a strategic focus of CAUDIT since 2005
- Initially the focus was on educating IT Directors about what it is, what it means and what the issues are.
- Complemented by an increasing realisation by IT Directors that they needed to take a more proactive role to supporting researchers
- Now focused on governance arrangements and making sure the service offerings from the various providers are unique, effective and sustainable
- Ongoing “partnership” with DIISR through Clare McLaughlin at the Science and Infrastructure Division
## How do we see it fitting together?

<table>
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<th>E-Research Core Components</th>
<th>Australia</th>
<th>State level</th>
<th>University</th>
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| **Australian Data Commons**  | Australian National Data Service | Regional eResearch Organisation | End to End Service Management  
Research Data Storage and Management |
| Research Data and Collections which are suitably described (with metadata) and managed to allow for sharing and reuse by researchers wherever they are. | | Intersect, eResearch South Australia (eRSA), VeRSI, etc | |
| **Collaboration Tools** | Australian Research Collaboration Services | N/A | |
| Facilities, and services which allow researchers to collaborate across a distance, includes simulation and visualisation tools, grid computing tools, high performance computing and data storage for the data commons. | | | Identity Management  
High Speed Campus Backbone |
| **Access** | Australian Access Federation | | |
| Cross-Institution (Federated) authentication services to enable researchers to use their “home institution” credentials to access collaboration tools, large instruments and the data commons wherever they are. | | | |
| **High Speed Communication Networks** | Australian Academic and Research Network (AARNet) | Regional Network Organisations (QRNO, SABRENet, VERN) | | Includes on campus, intra campus, interstate and international connectivity to provide high speed “end to end” communication links. |
What have we been doing with the major service providers (the A’s)?

AARNet
AAF
ARCS
ANDS
Direct and ongoing dialogue between the Chair of CAUDIT and the AARNet CEO

AARNet Advisory Committee

John Parry (Tas)
Malcolm Caldwell (NT)
Richard Constantine (Vic)
Chris Foley (WA)
Paul Sherlock (SA)
Kent Adams (QLD)
Mary Sharp (NSW)
Allan Williams (ACT)
Tom Minchin (CSIRO)
Clare McLaughlin (DIISR)
Chris Hancock (AARNet)
Now a great success story!

- Incorporated entity established in July 2009
- $2 Million funding granted by DIISR
- RFI to operate the Federation issued late in 2009
- Expect to appoint an operator in Q3 2010
- First AGM to be held in conjunction with the CAUDIT Spring Members Meeting in October
- 35 Full Members (8 of those at an advanced stage of joining)
- 4 Affiliates (as Service Providers)
The importance of partnership with the Government

Clare McLaughlin
Manager, eResearch
Research Infrastructure Branch
Science and Infrastructure Division
Who’s joined today?

- Australian Catholic University
- CSIRO
- ANSTO
- ARCS
- Charles Sturt University
- Edith Cowan University
- eResearch SA
- Flinders University
- Griffith University
- James Cook University
- Lincoln University (NZ)
- Macquarie University
- Monash University
- Murdoch University
- Queensland University of Technology
- RMIT University
- Tasmanian Partnership for Advanced Computing
- University of Adelaide
- University of Auckland (NZ)
- University of Canterbury (NZ)
- University of Queensland
- University of South Australia
- University of Tasmania
- University of Technology Sydney
- University of Western Australia
- University of Western Sydney
- Victorian Partnership for Advanced Computing
Affiliate Members

- **NetSpot**
  Hosted Moodle solutions in the cloud

- **Pebble Learning**
  Hosted e-Portfolio solution in the cloud

- **RMIT Publishing**
  Informit on-line service for Australian scholarly publications

- **TALIS Information Limited**
  Talis Aspire – A reading list solution

Are there CAUL related “vendors” who should be encouraged to join the AAF as affiliates
Who’s intending to join?

- AARNet
- Australian National University
- Australian Synchrotron
- Bond University
- Curtin University
- Intersect Australia Ltd
- iVEC
- The University of Melbourne
- The University of the Sunshine Coast
- University of Newcastle
- Victorian eResearch Strategic Initiative
Which Universities haven’t started the process of joining yet?

- QLD
  - Central Queensland University
  - University of Southern Queensland

- VIC
  - Deakin University
  - Swinbourne University of Technology
  - University of Ballarat
  - Victoria University

- WA
  - The University of Notre Dame Australia

- NSW/ACT
  - Southern Cross University
  - The University of New England
  - The University of Sydney
  - The University of New South Wales
  - University of Canberra
  - University of Wollongong

- NT
  - Charles Darwin University

As of mid March 2010
Mini Grants Scheme driving new services

- AuScope Grid Portal Infrastructure
  CSIRO
- ARCS’ Nimrod Service
  Monash University
- Blackboard
  Queensland University of Technology (QUT)
- Informit
  RMIT Publishing
- TPAC Portal
  Tasmanian Partnership for Advanced Computing (TPAC)
- Phenomics Ontology Driven Data Management Project
  University of Queensland (UQ)
- CAUDIT IT Benchmarking
  University of South Australia (UniSA)
Ongoing and close dialogue with Professor Tony Williams

Recent appointment of Nick Tate as an Associate Director for ARCS provides a strong linkage back to the Director IT community

Ongoing presentations by ARCS at successive CAUDIT meetings to keep the dialogue going
Direct “link” between the ANDS Steering Committee and the CAUDIT Executive

Presentations by ANDS at the CAUDIT meeting to keep the dialogue and progress going

CAUDIT members have been more broadly involved through the discussion of ANDS projects at each of their institutions
Current eResearch Priorities for CAUDIT
Current e-Research Priorities

- Ensuring we don’t have duplication of services by any of the A’s. There is a natural tendency to move “up the stack”

- Service Management and integrating support for services provided by the A’s with institutional support infrastructure and processes (ITIL for example)

- Research Network Funding (DIISR consultation regarding priorities for the $37m AREN funding)

- Interoperability of service offerings across the A’s?
CAUDIT Standing Committee on e-Research Services
Terms of Reference

- Provide strategic guidance and advice on the application and relevance of eResearch services such as network, workflow management, HPC, information management and technology developments to members.

- Act as an expert panel for consultation with respect to implementation constraints and issues as well as influencing and advising government representatives and eResearch entities.

- Provide guidelines to members on technical and service delivery matters for eResearch services.

- Co-ordinate the establishment of special interest groups across eResearch areas that ensure a holistic perspective is maintained and optimal value from these groups is applied across the sector, covering areas such as security, authority/authentication, and information management and access.

- Facilitate cooperative relationships with eResearch based entities and service providers, focusing on strategy, investment opportunities, and service improvements.
Membership

- John Parry (UTas) Chair
- Joe Young (QUT)
- Martin Borchert (QUT)
- Antony Stinziani (CSIRO)
- Peter Hicks (Curtin)
- Tim Chaffe (Auckland)
- Mary Sharp (Newcastle)
- Geoff Gordon (USyd)
- David Munro (Adelaide)
- Andrew Cooper (Sydney)
- Ji Zhang (USQ)
- Malcolm Wolski (Griffith)

- Should CAUL have a seat on the committee?
The eResearch Triad

CAUL / CAUDIT / Research Offices
...and discussion