The State of Two Nations: Open Scholarship in Australasia

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The State of Two Nations

A survey of members of the Council of Australian University Librarians and the Council of New Zealand University Librarians

- **Respondents:** 38 university libraries
  - 5 in New Zealand
  - 33 in Australia

- **By group in Australia:**
  - 8 Group of Eight
  - 6 Innovative Research Universities of Australia
  - 5 Libraries of the Australian Technology Network

- **By Location:**
  - 24 Metropolitan
  - 12 Regional City
  - 2 Rural

- **By Size (EFT students):**
  - 22 < 10,000
  - 1 10,000-20,000
  - 5 20,000-30,000
  - 20 > 30,000
Summary

- Institutional repositories are coming of age:
  - all respondent universities have established at least one and 32% hold >10,000 items
- Fedora and DSpace – most commonly used repository software
- 85% mandate content: 54% HD theses, 13% HERDC, 18% both
- 15 are involved in digital publishing with the libraries playing a leading role in open access publishing
- Research data curation is at an early stage with research data management plans at 3 and planned at 18 in Australia, 0 in NZ
- Digitisation is well established but not universal, focusing on theses (62%), library special collections (44%) and images (41%)
- Commitment to Open Access is growing: 24% strong, 34% under development, 42% some interest, 0% no interest
- 23 have staff dedicated to open scholarship: 22 in Australia, 1 in NZ
All the respondent university libraries in Australia and New Zealand have institutional repositories, most established since 2006.
Between them they hold 470,723 items, of which 165,211 were added in 2009. Some include records without full text.

68% hold 10,000 items or fewer; 24% under 3,000
Institutional repository

Repository software

- Bepress/Digital Commons: 10%
- Digitool: 12%
- EPrints: 12%
- Fedora/VRaIL: 22%
- Equelle: 5%
- Other: 5%
- Vufind: 7%

Organisation of content in IR

- University, faculty, school or centre: 45%
- Communities of practice: 28%
- ANZ Research Classification (FOR Codes): 10%
- Other: 17%
Mandated content

- Higher Degree Theses: 54%
- HERDC: 13%
- No mandate: 15%
- Both: 18%

Percentage of higher degree theses made available in digital format:

- 0-10%: 5
- 11-25%: 3
- 26-50%: 2
- 51-75%: 1
- 76-100%: 25

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Issues for institutional repositories

- Configuring metadata schema in repository application for various item types, adding new metadata fields (e.g., FOR codes) and remapping/re-indexing for searching and reporting; Training and supporting researchers in self-reporting and self-deposit of research publications – Canberra

- *strategic responsibility* *institutional buy-in & uptake by academics* *staff skills, commitment, sustainability* *promotion, access & use* *policies around content & recruitment of content* *intellectual property & digital rights* *preservation* – Victoria University of Wellington

- Staff resources to do everything we want to do. Technical limitations or requirements for ingest or organisation. – Monash
Digital publishing

Publication patterns

Digital Publishing Managed By

University Library, 9
Separate entity, 2

Pays for journals and books

University of Queensland
University of New South Wales
Australian National University
Victoria University of Wellington
University of Sydney
University of Technology, Sydney
University of Wollongong
Bond University
Monash University
Edith Cowan University
University of Adelaide
Griffith University
Lincoln University
University of Newcastle
La Trobe University

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Does your university facilitate the curation of research data?
- Australia: 8 yes, 19 planned
- New Zealand: 2 planned

Does your university have a research data management plan?
- Australia: 3 yes, 18 planned
- New Zealand: none
Research Data Curation

- Research data curation is beginning to be recognised as a question to be addressed but few have policies or programs to date.
  - Current or planned activities usually involve the university’s library, IT services and Research Office.
  - There is no agreement about software with only Mediaflux mentioned by more than one respondent.
  - A few universities have allocated from 10 to ‘hundreds’ of Terabytes for data storage. Almost all have nothing or nothing specific.

- Many issues were identified including:
  - “appropriate location for data - institutional / regional / national or in discipline based repositories” – Sydney
  - “Enormous variation in needs between disciplines. Size of data storage required. Educating researchers and research ethics panels.” - UTS
  - “Researcher awareness and capability. Technical solutions. Metadata. IP. Lack of rewards in current system; data still seen as a by-product rather than research output in its own right. Staff resourcing.” – Monash

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- Digitisation is well established but not universal.
- Many issues were raised including:
  
  "Deciding what to digitise and then providing systematic management of the variety of digitised objects. “ - Otago
Theses and dissertations are most often digitised (62% of respondents), followed by library special collections material (44%) and images (41%)
Several remarked that open access was promoted in conjunction with the Research Office.

Others noted the roles played by the University Librarian, other senior staff and Library staff in general.
Commitment to Open Access

All have some interest or commitment but only 24% show strong commitment, only 1 in NZ

79% actively promote open access to publications or data: 2 in NZ, 28 in Australia

Promotion principally by libraries, sometimes by Research Office, sometimes both

Challenges include lack of awareness, copyright and other practical issues and

“The academic's requirement to publish for impact, recognition and citations in ranked journals which generally oppose Open Access principles.” - Bond University
Discoverable open access materials

Discoverable types of materials

- Theses, 34
- Journals in DOAJ, 33
- Books, 28
- Conference proceedings, 25
- Data, 4
- Other, 4

- Provided by 37:
  - 5 in NZ
  - 32 in Australia

- Other materials are:
  - Reports (when grant conditions permit)
  - Publications in our Repository which can be made accessible eg author is the copyright owner
  - Chapters, departmental working papers
  - Government documents

- Issues include:
  - Licences
  - Maintaining links
  - Appropriate metadata
  - Fragmentation of discovery
Discovery tools

- Other means of discovery
  - Trove (ADT) and other NLA services
  - repository search
  - e-journal portal
  - federated searches
  - repository application's search interface eg ePrints
  - metadata harvesting to external search platforms /OAI from repository /via link resolver
  - SFX
  - Summon
  - Google
  - SSRM & Memre metadata
23 have staff dedicated to open scholarship activities, 22 in Australia, 1 in NZ

Median staffing level is 2.5 FTE, with 70 undertaking such work across the 23 libraries, 82% professional and 69% librarian/team leader/manager

Some without dedicated staff indicated ‘not core’ or ‘not enough resources’
Activities undertaken by staff

- Monash, Sydney & UTS undertake all 8 listed activities
- Median is 6 activities, the least common being: data curation (5) and publishing (12)
- Many noted that work is supported by liaison librarians, technical staff & library assistants
- Not enough staff, difficulty attracting appropriate staff, grant funding, transitioning from project to program were key issues.
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