

CAUL Strategic Plan Report to CAUL

Author: Maxine Brodie

Date: 13 September 2006

Date of previous report: None

Section	Advocacy and Communication: Relationships with Other Organisations
Action	Report on Research Activityflow and Middleware Priorities (RAMP) Project
Responsibility	Maxine Brodie
Time-line	31 July 2006-30 June 2007
Activity since last report	Ministerial Press release 31 July 2006 outlining allocation by DEST of a further \$15 million to SII projects, including RAMP (\$2.9m).
Achievements since last report	Macquarie E-Learning Centre of Excellence (lead) and partners in the process of establishing project.
Publicity, reports, publications since last report	<p>Project Summary:</p> <p><i>Lead institution: Macquarie University</i> <i>Partners: University of Melbourne, The Australian National University, Charles Sturt University, University of Southern Queensland, Macquarie University Library, ADL Australia</i></p> <p>RAMP project will improve national research effectiveness by addressing two challenging components of the national research information infrastructure: the development and implementation of open standards authorisation for protected repositories; and research into and demonstration of people-oriented research workflows (often referred to as research activityflows).</p> <p>The first component of the RAMP project on open standards authorisation is recognised nationally and internationally to be of critical importance to the effective inter-operation of digital repositories. There is an increasing need for management of protected content as part of repositories such as Institutional Repositories, e-Reserves, etc, but most approaches to protected content rely on hardwired or proprietary authorisation mechanisms that are inefficient, costly and promote system lock-in. Earlier work of the Meta Access Management System (MAMS) project has demonstrated the feasibility of an open standards approach to authorisation. The RAMP project will take this work to the next stage and develop robust technology solutions that can be adopted by a wide range of digital repository systems.</p> <p>The second component of the project will examine and model the range of processes involved in conducting research, and develop a generic architecture and software solution to research activityflows that can be shared, re-used and adapted. This approach draws on the success of "Learning Design" (e.g. LAMS) within e-learning, and applies it to the challenges of people-based workflow in e-Research.</p>
Plan for forthcoming activity	Attend Project Board meetings
CAUL budget implications	Nil
Recommendations to CAUL	For noting