

CAUL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD 2010:

Nomination of Samantha Searle, Data Management Coordinator, Monash University

Introduction

Samantha (Sam) Searle has been the Data Management Coordinator at Monash University since 2008. She was the first person to be appointed to such a role in Australasia, and one of the first in the world. In this role she has led activity in data management both within the Library and across the university, including the development of data management policies and procedures and the institution of programs and training for Library staff. She has worked with researchers, interpreted government policies and frameworks into the institutional setting and supported the university's management, storage and access to research data. She has been an important resource for the Australian National Data Service (ANDS) and has made all of her work available to other institutions through articles, presentations, visits and an open web site.

Contribution to research

By embracing a leadership role, Sam has demonstrated what can be done and has made a significant contribution to the CAUL strategic agenda, particularly Contribution to Research, as shown below:

- Development of governance structures within Monash.
- Development of a data management framework and 5 platforms for activity.
- Development of the Library's efforts to disseminate Monash research outputs as widely as possible using the Monash University ARROW Repository.
- Contribution to the development of the Monash's Research Data Management Policy and Procedure.
- Coordination of data management activity across Monash, including acting as a link between the Library, the Monash eResearch Centre, Information Technology Services and Records and Archives.
- Development of the data management web site, <http://www.researchdata.monash.edu/>.
- Development of new services and new directions in the area of data management services, <http://www.researchdata.monash.edu/resources/dataleaflet.pdf>
- Provision of leadership not only to Monash but also nationally, through ANDS and more generally. She has posted all the Monash work to ANDS information distribution networks, including her evaluation reports, communication plans and policies and procedures, and has contributed to a range of policy debates, including on NeCTAR and database definitions and reuse. Because Monash has been an early adopter, Sam's work has been a resource for other libraries. See attached supporting documentation highlighting Sam's communication, advocacy and outreach activity.
- Support for Monash's professional development strategy, DARE, which is designed to equip contact librarians and others to provide a data management advisory service. Sam provides leadership and resources for this strategy, which is gradually building as librarians take on new roles and include data management in their duties.
- Building capability through training of students and researchers, including seminars for Higher Degree Research (HDR) students, online modules and development of toolkits and checklists. Session evaluations indicate that 85% of participants rate them as "Extremely useful" and "Useful".

Conclusion

Sam Searle has made an important contribution to the CAUL goal Contribution to Research, where she has taken a leadership role in the management and facilitation of access to data and has supported the Library's wider scholarly communication and information management roles. She has contributed to the value proposition of university libraries in a changing and diverse environment. She has led and supported the effective development of the framework for data management, overseen the inclusion of data management activity in the university's day-to-day operations and provided a platform that helps redefine the role and value of libraries within their institutions. This has been achieved through extensive collaboration with researchers, librarians, e-Research and Information Technology staff across the university and externally.

Supporting Documentation

Publications, Presentations and Outreach

Searle, S.: *Data management outreach and professional development at Monash University: lessons learned and future directions*. Presentation to eResearch Australasia Conference 2010 (forthcoming).

Harrison, A. & Searle, S.: *Not drowning, ingesting: dealing with the research data deluge at an institutional level*. Presentation to VALA Conference 2010.

http://www.vala.org.au/component/docman/doc_download/99-vala2010-session-6-harrison-paper

Searle, S.: "Managing research data: a new direction for university libraries". *Incite: News Magazine of the Australian Library and Information Association* 30:9, 2009.

Searle, S. et al: *Institutional Approaches to Data Management Support: Exploring Different Models*. Presentation to eResearch Australasia Conference 2009.

Support for other institutions, including:

- Invitation by ANDS to participate in the Birds of a Feather workshop at eResearch Australasia 2010 (forthcoming).
- Organised visit and presentation by Ellen Thompson, Queensland University of Technology's data librarian (2010).
- ANDS Public Sector Data program and one of the museums sector projects presentations (2010).
- ANDS eResearch Support Forum, chaired by Margaret Henty (2009).
- VerSI seminar with Robin Rice, Data Librarian at the University of Edinburgh, in conjunction with ANDS and the Monash e-Research Centre (2009).
- Presentation to VerSI on Research Data Management (2009).
- Represented CAUL at the ANDS symposium Supporting the Data Lifecycle (2009).
- Joint workshop at eResearch Australasia 2009 with CSIRO, University of Newcastle, Queensland University of Technology, Griffith University and ANDS.
- Other visits and meetings with CSIRO, University of Newcastle, Queensland University of Technology, Swinburne University, University of Tasmania, University of South Australia and the National Library of Australia.
- Recently invited to speak at the Australian University Recordkeepers Forum on making connections between data management and records/archives professionals (2010).
- Invited to contribute to the Reconceptualising Australian LIS Education project.

Responded to surveys / consultations / research projects including:

- Digital Curation Centre Data Audit Framework evaluation.
- Monash submission to Victorian government e-research review.
- Monash submission to DIISR Super Science Data Storage consultation.
- Library/ Monash e-Research Centre response to Institute of Safety, Compensation and Rehabilitation Research (ISCRR) Information Management Strategy and Implementation.
- JISC 'Defining a new role: The Research Information Manager' survey and follow-up interview.
- Reconceptualising Australian LIS Education project.
- Faculty of IT curriculum review.
- Monash response to ANDS Services Roadmap request for comments.
- Monash response to ARDC Party Infrastructure Project survey.
- CAUL response to National eResearch Collaboration Tools and Resources (NeCTAR) Consultation Paper.

External international activities including:

- Participating in visits from University of Pretoria, DSIR (South Africa) and University of Bonn-Rhein-Sieg.
- Providing a data management session via videoconference as part of a Monash Sunway training course for King Faisal University Deans.
- Providing ANDS staff with content for presentations, for example, Andrew Treloar's presentation to the TICER digital libraries workshop in the Netherlands.
- Contributing to a planning videoconference for the UK Research Data Service.

Endorsement from University Librarian

I endorse Monash University's nomination of Sam Searle for a CAUL Achievement Award. In addition to the information provided in the nomination, which I agree with, I am including here three comments from other people to show the high regard in which she is held.

"When I received your email I could scarcely believe what I was reading.... To say I was pleased is an understatement, [when] your email came along offering so many of the resources the University will need to do the job.

Thanks so much for this. When it comes time to manage the contract, I just know my life will be easier because University of Adelaide will have such a headstart as a result of the work you're making available."

Email received from Andrew Williams, University of Adelaide, when he saw the material Sam was making available on the ANDS site, 18 October 2010.

"In our joint engagement with research groups, Sam's professionalism has been exemplary. She brings a broad understanding of the all of the considerations in data management to engagement, while genuinely striving to meet the researcher unique and immediate needs. She listens, acts and delivers consistently at the highest levels and is instrumental in ensuring there is effective communication between the library and the eResearch Centre."

Comment from Paul Bonnington, Director Monash eResearch Centre, 29 October 2010.

"Sam Searle has made a substantial contribution to Australia's research data management community. She has blended very practical engagement with researchers, practical approaches to institutions and national perspectives and staff have greatly benefited from Sam's contributions."

Comment from Ross Wilkinson, Executive Director, ANDS, 20 October 2010.



Cathrine Harboe-Ree
University Librarian
29 October 2010.