

Project Brief: FAIR and Open Non-Traditional Research Outputs

Document Information

Project Name:	FAIR and Open Non-Traditional Research Outputs
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Key Project Information

Project Sponsor:	Catherine Clark Program Director catherine.clark@curtin.edu.au
Program:	Advancing Open Scholarship
Project Start Date:	August 2021
Project End Date:	June 2022
CAUL National Office Contact:	Kate Davis Director, Strategy & Analytics kate.davis@caul.edu.au
Project Management Group:	FAIR and Open Non-Traditional Research Outputs Project Team
Related Projects:	CAUL's Libraries and Open Publishing Case Studies Project
Key Documents:	The following documents will be created following the establishment of the Project Team: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Project Timeline● Membership List – Project Team● Terms of Reference – Project Team

Project Approval

CAUL Board of Directors:	14 July 2021
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Project Overview

Background & Context:	<p>The Advancing Open Scholarship Program has been focussed for the last 18 months on reaching beyond libraries and the higher education sector to advocate for a FAIR strategy for Australia. This work continues with national leaders. To date, the Program has largely focused on publications and data. There is now an opportunity to extend this work to explore the role of libraries beyond the management of open publications and data, and provide guidance to CAUL member institutions.</p> <p>There has not been any sector-level work on the role of libraries in ensuring that FAIR principles are applied to research outputs such as software and other NTRs (e.g. film, creative writing, website design). This exploratory project will address this gap by investigating current practice, including areas where there</p>
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are opportunities to improve or expand practice related to application of the FAIR principles to NTROs. The project will also explore how the [CARE principles](#) should be applied to these outputs.

Objectives:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explore the roles academic libraries can or should play in describing, archiving, preserving, and facilitating discovery of and access to software and other NTROs. 2. Develop a framework for academic libraries that describes how libraries can apply FAIR and CARE principles to NTROs.
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Brief Description of Project:	<p>The project will undertake a review of practice at both national and international levels to develop an understanding of current practice. This will involve a desktop audit and environmental scan as well as consultations with libraries and other sector-level bodies in Australia and beyond. It will also include consultation with researchers to determine what support they need to ensure their research outputs are findable and accessible. As this area is reasonably nascent, the project will be exploratory in nature and may involve conducting interviews, focus groups or online surveys.</p> <p>The project will produce a report on current practice and opportunities for improving practice. The report will situate the role of the academic library in the broader Open Research landscape and explore how the library's work relates to the work of other bodies both within and beyond the researcher's institution. The project will also produce a framework that provides guidance for CAUL Member institutions about how to increase the proportion of NTROs by Australian university researchers that are appropriately described, archived, preserved and made accessible.</p>
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Benefits:	<p>This project has the potential to improve practice by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● identifying opportunities for libraries to support researchers to make their NTROs more accessible through the application of FAIR principles ● defining the role of the library in relationship to other bodies ● developing and disseminating a framework to guide the work that academic libraries undertake in this space.
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Scope:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In scope: Aspects of dealing with NTROs that are relevant to libraries, specifically, description, archiving, preservation, discovery and access. ● Out of scope: Specific technical considerations that are generally outside the responsibility of the library e.g. data storage space.
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Anticipated Deliverables:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Project report. ● Framework. ● Online seminar to disseminate findings to CAUL Member institutions.
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Anticipated Timeline:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Call for expressions of interest - July 2021 ● Establish Project Team - August 2021 ● Develop project methodology - August/September 2021 ● Develop project timeline - September 2021 ● Undertake desktop audit and other data collection activities - October 2021 to February 2022 ● Develop framework - March/April 2022 ● Deliver project outputs - June 2022
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Resource Requirements:	<p>Personnel: A Project Team comprising four or five staff from CAUL member institutions (a lead and three or four team members) will be established to undertake the project. It is anticipated that the workload will vary across the life of the project, but will not exceed approximately four hours per month. CAUL National Office will provide</p>
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support for publishing the case studies on the CAUL website.

Project management: The Project Team will manage the project with support from CAUL National Office.

Budget: N/A.

Other: N/A

Key Stakeholders:

- CAUL Member institutions
 - Universities Australia including DVCsR Committee
 - Chief Scientist
 - FAIR Steering Group
 - FAIR Roundtable participants
 - CAUL/ARMS Open Research Working Group
 - RDA's FAIR for Research Software (FAIR4RS) Working Group - early engagement with this group will be necessary to ensure there is no overlap in scope of work
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Key Risks:

- Inadequate resources available for the project.
 - The area is too nascent to be able to identify any meaningful international and national best practice.
 - It may be difficult to separate description, archiving, preservation, discovery and access from technical considerations that are out of scope for this project.
 - The framework becomes too unwieldy to be useful for library practice.
 - The project may overlap with the work currently being undertaken by RDA's FAIR for Research Software (FAIR4RS) Working Group.
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