

apsr projects

In 2007, APSR will build on its established reputation as a dynamic centre for digital collection management. Projects, seminars, training and other activities are organised according to four major themes.

repository interoperability framework (riff)

The full potential of repositories is attained when they are integrated into the everyday computing activities of the education and research community.

APSR's RIFF initiatives for 2007 are designed to better integrate research repositories into the scholarly communications and eResearch life cycle. They will include workflows and software to be developed to assist with eJournals, eConferences, image collections, fieldwork, researcher portfolios, music collections, word processing (Scholars Workbench) and a map-based discovery service for repositories.



Image by Michael Keniger,
by courtesy of
University of Queensland eSpace

services & infrastructure for digital collections

Digital collections of research data and scholarly output are the basis of a new paradigm in research and teaching. APSR contributes to the Australian research infrastructure by providing shared services and common infrastructure for use across many repositories, data centres, and digital collections. These services help to create a more sophisticated information environment for Australian researchers, enabling an integrated network of collections and establishing international frameworks for research collaboration.

Projects for 2007 include a collections service registry for improved discovery and access to collections and data sets, digital preservation infrastructure and services to ensure digital sustainability of research collections, and collections statistics infrastructure for a better understanding of the impact of online collections. APSR also offers technical support services to assist institutional adopters of open source repository systems such as DSpace and Fez+Fedora.

eResearch facilitation

APSR sees the need for the repository network to be aligned more closely with ICT-enabled environments for research and scholarship.



Giant Magellan Telescope - Carnegie Observatories

APSR is consolidating its support network and training agenda in 2007 to improve the capability of the Australian researchers to take advantage of new possibilities in research technology and data management.

There is an ongoing need to address the sustainability of Australian eResearch data collections, including technical, financial and administrative aspects.



"Fetish" by Bruce Radke
by courtesy of the
Australian National University Library

research reporting

APSR activity in this area is responding to policy imperatives to identify, assess and reward research excellence. The proposed RQF (Research Quality Framework) provides a focus for activity in this area in 2007.



Image by Michael Keniger,
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The challenge for repositories is to integrate the archival and dissemination capabilities of the repository with the research reporting mechanisms and workflows of the rest of the university. This requires ongoing development of integration approaches, data definitions, and standard presentation templates for research portfolios.

building on success

From its inception in 2004, APSR set out to develop test beds in its partner universities. These concentrated on issues of repository development, management, integration, sustainability and the creation of tools. These testbed activities and pilot projects have formed the foundation of the promising infrastructure, services, tools and frameworks being provided by APSR in 2007.

The University of Queensland has developed the Fez software for institutional repositories. Fez provides a powerful front end to the Fedora framework and has proved a popular option around the world, being implemented in Europe and the USA.

The University of Sydney has demonstrated the linking of heterogeneous repositories and collections using the iSpheres connector. Repositories here provide a sustainable basis for open access publishing.

The Australian National University has been active in the international collaboration to develop the DSpace repository software.

APAC and the National Library of Australia have collaborated with the university partners on noteworthy projects such as AONS (Automated Obsolescence Notification System), the Digital Scholar's Workbench, AERES (Australian eResearch Sustainability Survey), PRESTA (PREMIS Requirement Statement) and FIDAS (Fieldwork Data Sustainability).

Details of all of these, and more, can be found on the APSR website at www.apsr.edu.au.

APSR continues to provide education, training, expertise and advice on the management of digital collections. This outreach agenda takes up the core APSR themes, namely Services & Infrastructure for Collections, Repository Interoperability, eResearch, and Research Reporting. The following major events are planned for 2007:

The RQF Explained: Information Management and Repository Needs for the RQF, in Sydney on February 13 and in Melbourne on February 15 held in conjunction with ARROW.

The Adaptable Repository in Sydney on May 3, held in association with ARROW, and examining the many purposes to which repositories can be put.

eResearch Australasia 2007 to be held in Brisbane from 27-29 June, in association with the Middleware Action Plan and Strategy (MAPS). This forum brings together researchers, technology developers and research policy makers.

A follow-up to the successful *Long-term Repositories: taking the shock out of the future* in Canberra in association with the National Library of Australia.

Clever Collections: a national showcase of technical innovations for digital collections in Melbourne in association with the DART Project.



Images from the Paddle Bros Pty Ltd. Collection, by courtesy of Noel Butlin Archives Centre

APSR is addressing strategic issues of digital sustainability, eResearch facilitation, system development and the management of research data and repositories through a coordinated set of programs and projects.

The partnership provides support across the higher education sector by offering outreach and training in the development and implementation of new tools, techniques, software and management solutions. It is a catalyst for the cohesion and collaboration of existing Australian institutional efforts.

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APSR funding was granted originally for 2004-2006 and has now been extended to the end of 2007.

APSR partners:

The Australian National University
The University of Sydney
The University of Queensland
National Library of Australia
Australian Partnership for Advanced Computing (APAC)

APSR is also working with associated partners:

University of Technology, Sydney
The University of Melbourne



Australian Partnership for Sustainable Repositories

establishing a centre of excellence for the management of digital collections

2007 Directions

www.apsr.edu.au