

Geoscience Australia Capability Statement Australian National Data Service (ANDS)

Geoscience Australia (GA) is a potential contributor to the ANDS project to further enable the sharing of research data between relevant institutions and government agencies that make up the research community within Australia. GA has the capability that will benefit the ANDS project in multiple areas, these are described below:-

Federated Services

GA's capability in this group of services is through provision of the discipline specific discovery services. The agency has managed and maintained geospatial discovery systems for the last 10 years, examples include the ANZLIC Australian Spatial Data Directory. The agency is in the process of implementing new discovery system that is ISO 19115 compliant. ANDS could benefit from the use of such discovery services as well as the knowledge gained during its creation.

Outreach Services

GA's primary capability for ANDS is through the support of institutions in the implementation and creation of standard based data sharing infrastructure. GA's primary area of expertise is in ISO/OGC standards. GA is a technical member of several ISO/OGC standards committees and has experience in the formation and adoption of standards, particularly geospatial standards, within global communities.

GA recently formalised an organisational approach to data management. Institutions that wish to contribute to the ANDS may benefit from the aims, outcomes and standards implied in this approach. GA could provide support to the research community in use of such a methodology.

Contribution of datasets

GA is the custodian for many of the national geoscience datasets. GA's core datasets can be freely downloaded or purchased for cost of transfer, however there are some limitations that ANDS should be aware of:-

- Current bandwidth is limited for the transfer of large data quantities (approximately 48Mb/s)
- Authentication and authorisation mechanisms established are consistent with the ACSI33 government guidelines
- GA's data holdings are stored on a mixture of online and offline media

With these limitations in mind, it is envisaged that our organisation could still make a substantial contribution to the content of the ANDS.

ANDS Usage

The resource that would result from the formation of the ANDS would be of significant interest to GA staff. Many of these relationships and collaborations occur without this facility. However the formation of ANDS would introduce a level of efficiency whilst extending the opportunity for Geoscience Australia to further engage with Australia's research community.