



**NATIONAL COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY
PLATFORMS FOR COLLABORATION
AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL DATA SERVICE (ANDS)**

MONASH UNIVERSITY CAPABILITY STATEMENT

8 June 2007

Capability statement

Monash University has a high level of capability in the areas of data management relevant to ANDS. This capability is based on a number of historic and institutional factors:

- Commitment to e-Research at the highest level of the university, including the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research), the Director, Information Technology Services and the University Librarian, as well as recognition that this is a key to the University's strategic direction. This is evidenced by:
 - the establishment of the first e-Research Centre in an Australian university (2005);
 - the creation and implementation of an Information Management Strategy (2005) and subsequent selection of information management as one of only five key priorities in the University's Operating Plan (2006);
 - the creation of a Data Management Policy and Plan, endorsed by the e-Research Advisory Committee (2007) and now being trialled with research groups;
 - the establishment of large scale data storage facilities, a practical operating model and a sustainable funding model; and
 - the establishment of high performance computing capability and data storage facilities supported by national and state based services targeting institutional engagement with the Australian Synchrotron.
- Critical mass of skilled people, information management specialists (particularly Dr Andrew Treloar), e-Research support specialists, and computer scientists (particularly Professor David Abramson) leading to:
 - a demonstrated ability to work together to understand e-research and data management requirements;
 - a history of involvement with researchers and work on understanding their needs;
 - a highly skilled, capable, and multidisciplinary workforce underpinned by sound management practices to deliver original, challenging and innovative outcomes; and
 - a track record in research, development, and deployment of Grid middleware.
- Established record of involvement with state and national e-research and data management agendas:
 - three years' leadership of the national projects ARROW, DART and ARCHER;
 - leadership in the VERN initiative;
 - leadership in CAUL and CAUDIT, including conducting e-research and data management fora;
 - strong involvement with the VerSI and VPAC initiatives;
 - membership of relevant committees, including the e-Research Coordinating Committee and the Platforms for Collaboration Reference Group; and
 - the establishment of a data grid involving Monash, ANU and the University of Queensland providing large scale data storage facilities for researchers.

Monash believes that it can lead and respond to the following functional capability areas listed in the May 2007 ANDS Discussion Paper. This can obviously be elaborated on as required.

- Policy and planning
- Collaboration governance (ARROW, DART, ARCHER, VERNet, VerSI, VPAC)
- Project management
- Community development, outreach and support (ARROW Community)
- Repository leadership and management (ARROW, DART, ARCHER)

- Conceptualising a national discovery service (ARROW Discovery Service, established by the National Library of Australia)
- Metadata management (ARROW, and the recently formed Metadata Advisory Committee for Australian Repositories (MACAR))
- Data architecture (ARROW, DART, ARCHER)
- Data re-positioning (DART, ARCHER)
- Data curation continuum (ARCHER, ARROW)
- Addressing researcher needs (DART, ARCHER)
- Data management policy and planning (Monash Data Management Policy)
- Data storage provisioning and service management (Monash University Large Research Data Store)
- Storage management (DART, ARCHER).

Proposed involvement

Monash University is interested in playing a leading role in furthering the ANDS goals over the next 12 months, in collaboration with other institutions. Based on its leadership of ARROW, DART and ARCHER, and its own institutional activities, Monash has a particular interest in leading the Stewardship (and associated outreach) components of ANDS. Monash acknowledges CSIRO's offer to lead a collaborative approach to ANDS and recognises the likely benefits of having a national institution in this role. Monash already has a strong relationship with CSIRO and is developing this around jointly operated data centres, which could logically extend to data management and high performance computing. In addition to other universities with key expertise, Monash sees the National Library of Australia making a strong contribution in the areas of resource discovery and preservation, and possibly persistent identifier service provision.

Professor Edwina Cornish
Deputy Vice Chancellor

8 June 2007