

NAA Capabilities for NCRIS Platforms for Collaboration - Australian National Data Service Activity

National Archives of Australia (NAA)

The National Archives of Australia (NAA) is the Australian Government's records and archives authority, and has extensive and well-respected experience in management of records (data) in many forms, both analogue and digital. NAA is an enabler of good records management in government agencies, providing standards and guidelines to assist records creators and to ensure that agency staff create complete and reliable records that remain accessible and useable over time.

NAA understands and promotes the view that it is vitally important for records/data creators to have in place proper strategies and policies that ensure the integrity, durability, security, useability, meaning and authenticity of digital data whatever its form. To this end NAA has published a wide range of guidelines and better practice standards that cover topics such as managing business information (the DIRKS Manual), recordkeeping metadata schema, discovery and access metadata, ontologies, records appraisal and disposal, and policies and strategies for archiving of web-based resources. More recently NAA has issued guidance on creating, managing and preserving digital records, and on information authentication issues.

NAA has developed and implemented an operational digital archive that stores, manages and preserves digital objects created by government agencies. The features of the digital archive are: use of open source technologies; conversion of objects to a standard range of archival data formats to produce authentic, reliable, and durable digital objects; and a suite of NAA-developed tools that manage and undertake the digital preservation processes.

NAA has unique expertise in issues of data management and sustainability and is interested in working collaboratively with data management initiatives and other information professionals who will contribute to the ANDS program.

Australian National Data Service (ANDS)

NAA is interested in contributing to a number of the ANDS service areas. In particular NAA wishes to contribute to the following ANDS service areas:

- online collections registry and discovery service –NAA has been contributing to development of a National Online Archival Network for discovery and access to archival resources across Australia;
- metadata and ontology scheme registry – NAA has long involvement in the development of ontologies such as AGIFT, and metadata schema, in particular the AGLS Metadata Standard for resource discovery AS5044. In the context of our leadership role in relation to the AGLS Metadata Standard NAA has participated actively in the metadata working group of the National Data Network;
- Outreach services – as the Commonwealth's archives and records management authority NAA has extensive experience in information management issues and practice. For example, NAA is leading the Australasian Digital Recordkeeping Initiative collaborative activity to harmonise strategies for managing digital objects across Australia and New Zealand. NAA would make an essential and important contribution to all components of this service area both strategic and tactical;
- curation and collection management services – NAA has developed and implemented a digital archive for storing, managing and preserving over time digital objects created by government agencies. NAA can offer a number of tools specifically developed to assist and manage digital preservation processes, including the XENA preservation tool that has generated wide-spread interest and some uptake outside the Commonwealth.

