



# RDS

[www.rds.edu.au](http://www.rds.edu.au)

Quarterly Newsletter

## NCRIS

National Research  
Infrastructure for Australia  
An Australian Government Initiative

Welcome to the RDS newsletter,

RDS is approaching 2016 as the year of consolidation and maximising research impact and it's been a very busy quarter with RDS providing input, guidance, and leadership in many areas.

In May we participated in the highly productive and illuminating [Nectar Virtual Laboratory and Technical Ops workshops](#) which provided opportunities to discuss with the leadership of the Nectar Virtual Labs and delivery organisations ways in which RDS can provide access to skills and resources as well as how we can better coordinate our efforts across the RDS and Nectar projects.

In May RDS also organised the first [meeting between the leadership groups](#) of ANDS, Nectar, AAF, AARNet and RDS in order to investigate where we could apply our areas of expertise and influence to develop high-value and high-impact services for a broad range of potential users, as well as providing invaluable insight into the strategic and operational imperatives of each group. This will be a regular meeting between our groups in order to further the coordination and cohesion of our combined offerings, making connecting people to resources increasingly simple and transparent.

This strong imperative to develop links between our organisations was embodied in the development of an 'umbrella' body of work, called the [Data Lifecycle Project](#), led by RDS, which aims to stitch together the various components and services to enable a set of systems and services with a value much greater than the sum of their parts.

The participation of the node community in the [completion of the NCRIS survey](#) also provided the opportunity to document and highlight the impressive impact the RDS project has had on Australia's research community. Statistics include:

- Over 2400 individuals across 655 organisations directly use RDS or RDSI funded infrastructure
- Nearly 500 curated and managed data sets in 28PB of used storage on RDSI infrastructure
- 1600 people trained over 130 courses & training sessions
- RDSI and RDS projects or infrastructure assist in work in 16 of the 22 Fields of Research and almost every NCRIS capability

These numbers provide a strong and documented case demonstrating the positive impact the provision of core infrastructure and services have had on the Australian research environment.

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RDS has also participated strongly in the [NCRIS roadmap and eResearch Framework](#) bodies of work, which will guide and shape the future eResearch infrastructure and services ecosystems. It's an extremely interesting and exciting time with major questions and discussions around how best to support and foster development of research communities to continue Australia's world leading position in many high-impact areas.

RDS funded and coordinated the presence at the [2016 Questnet Conference](#) of many of the eResearch organisations the project leverages to deliver the projects and services funded through the NCRIS program. Most nodes presented highly popular and well-attended talks highlighting and communicating the systems they have developed with a strong focus on researcher/operations support engagement and coordination. In addition the RDS-funded combined booth with ANDS, Nectar, AAF, and AARNet was very popular, not least because of the sensational snakes-and-ladders board game and almost uncontrollable mini-blimps.

Planned activities for the next period include close [engagement with NCRIS research data generators](#), further alignment of the RDS projects with, where possible, their partner Nectar and ANDS projects to streamline governance and maximise outputs, close work with an initial subset of the NCRIS community around boosting the quality, durability, and reliability of research inputs and outputs under the Data Lifecycle project banner, and increased national and international engagement to both communicate the local community's achievements as well as ensure we are kept abreast of crucial international developments and opportunities.

Regards,

Ian Duncan

## Featured

### National eResearch Help Desk

In response to the growing demand on national eResearch infrastructure services, Research Data Services (RDS) and National eResearch Collaboration Tools and Resources (Nectar), two programs federally funded by the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS), have partnered to provide a collaborative online and telephone Help Desk. This help desk will cover researcher's support needs for both national infrastructure programs. The help desk is operated by the RDS and Nectar eResearch national service providers eRSA, Intersect, QCIF, TPAC and VicNode. QCIF has partnered with eRSA to create the support desk delivery systems.



The support desk provides researchers with guidance for using nationally funded Nectar Research Cloud and RDS infrastructure services. These include the storage, management, access and sharing of data with other researchers locally and internationally, as well as the use of servers, tools and cloud computing infrastructure for processing, analysis and collaboration. The service will support the research life cycle through to the cataloguing and archiving of data typically required at the completion of a project. The support desk is accessible through <https://support.ehelp.edu.au>.

[Read More](#)

## What's new with the Node Operators

### NCI completes research data transfer

Over 10 Petabytes of research data is now stored at NCI, one of the RDS data storage nodes for nationally significant collections. Ingest of the collections recently reached 100%, with NCI finalising the storage of all of its allocated data. Currently, this equates to more than a third of the accessible [RDS funded data](#) nationwide.



The collections, which comprise a variety of environmental data, imagery and modelling, are now available via the [NCI Data Portal](#). Completing this data transfer and storage means that decades of publicly funded data gathering is now easily accessible online. Spread over 31

different collections and 12 different fields of research, this data ingest is a major step in the increased sharing of knowledge among Australian scientists.

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### **Intersect: Navigate the Health Data Privacy/Security Landscape with med.data.edu.au**

To provide up-to-date relevant legislative, ethical and security information specifically to the Australian health and medical research community, the Intersect-led national med.data.edu.au project undertook extensive research into the legislative and best practice landscape that impacts on data-driven human research in Australia. A new interactive guide is now available.



[Read More](#)

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### **DaRIS capability available at VicNode**

VicNode supports the DaRIS (Distributed and Reflective Informatics System) capability for managing bio-medical imaging and offers a DaRIS service.

DaRIS is built with the Mediaflux platform, which is also a core VicNode capability.

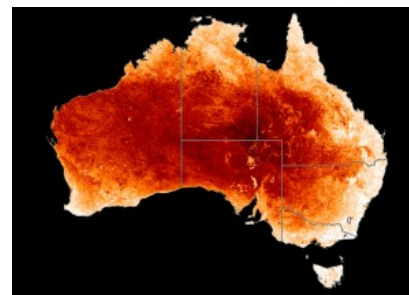


[Read More](#)

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### **NCI: Mapping Australia's environmental data**

NCI's data and compute expertise have played an integral role in a recently launched website that provides easy access to a wide range of environmental data covering the entire country, from precipitation and river flows to tree cover and bush fire density. The data, available on the Australia's Environment in 2015 website through The Australian National University, covers measurements from precipitation and river flows to tree cover and bushfire intensity.



[Read More](#)

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### **QCIF: Introducing the Cloud Power Users**

Rowland Mosbergen (pictured), Stemformatics' lead developer, has established a Nectar Research Cloud power users group after meeting other users at the QCIF-hosted Brisbane Tech Talk on 6 May 2016. According to Rowland, a power user wants to build things that are "maintainable, extensible, scalable, reliable."



[Read more](#)

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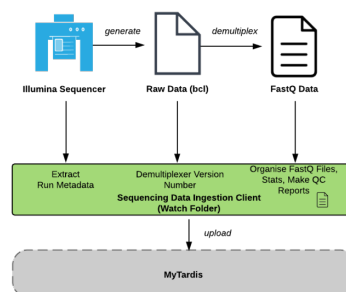
### **Integrating Gene Sequencers with the Cloud at VicNode Monash Operating Centre**



The Monash Bioinformatics Platform, MyTardis, the Characterisation Virtual Laboratory and the R@C Mon teams have joined forces to pioneer the "instrument integration" agenda into gene sequencing. MyTardis is unique in that it allows all three - researchers, storage/institutions and facility managers - to govern and automate data produced by instruments, whilst maintaining data provenance and durability.

[Read More](#)

#### Sequencing Data Ingestion Client Workflow



## QCIF: August Tech Talk to focus on Imaging Analysis Tools

The Tech Talk on 5 August, 3-4pm AEST, will focus on imaging analysis tools with Dr Andrew Janke (pictured) from The University of Queensland's Centre for Advanced Imaging and Dr Grischa Meyer, a senior research programmer and data architect at Monash University, on the panel.

[Read more](#)



## Melbourne Femur Collection

The Melbourne Femur Collection is a unique archive of human femoral bone tissue gathered (over the last 20 years) from around 600 individuals who died suddenly and unexpectedly without any major predisposing medical conditions or long periods of immobilisation. The collection also includes post-mortem clinical CT scans, micro-CT image data, and digitised microradiographs of thin sections of the bones.



[Read More](#)

## QCIF - Call for volunteers for ResBaz 2017

The dates for next year's Brisbane Research Bazaar (ResBaz) have been announced, 7-9 February, and its organisers are calling for volunteers.



Brisbane ResBaz 2017 will be held at The University of Queensland, St Lucia.

ResBaz is a worldwide festival promoting the digital literacy emerging at the centre of modern research.

[Read more](#)

## Infrastructure Providers Bulletin Board

## Has your organisation upgraded to Shibboleth V3?

Are your IDM teams working towards an IdP V3 upgrade? With the End-of-Life (EOL) of Shibboleth V2 approaching on July 31 2016, the AAF has released its IdP Installer which will help Identity Providers (IdPs) with setting up, configuring and upgrading their IdPs to Shibboleth V3.

For more information visit - [IdP V3: Upgrade now](#) or email [support@aaf.edu.au](mailto:support@aaf.edu.au)



## CERN's new data services for science and collaborations with AARNet

Massimo Lamanna, from CERN's IT Storage group visited Australia recently to speak at the QUESTnet2016 conference about collaborations with AARNet and new services developed by CERN to manage the data deluge from LHC activities. These services have the potential to aid data analysis in many fields.

[Read more](#)



## CloudStor makes Synchrotron data transfers easy for researchers

AARNet's CloudStor file sender service makes transferring large datasets interstate and overseas easy for researchers such as CSIRO's Darren Thompson. He works across a number of areas in the Synchrotron sciences, developing software for high-speed X-ray imaging and computed tomography reconstruction on datasets using HPC systems.

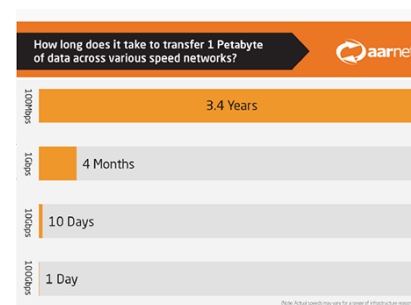


[Read more](#)

## Data movement: do you know what your campus network is actually capable of?

AARNet is purpose-built for research but there's more to large data transfer than the size of your pipe. AARNet has built a data transfer benchmarking service on AARNet4 for institutions to test to from their campus network and/or data intensive science resources. This service is available now for testing all AARNet connected institutions.

[Read more](#)



## RDS Project Updates

### RDS @ Questnet 2016

The RDS project made a big splash at the Questnet conference earlier this month together with sector partners AAF, ANDS, AARNet and Nectar. The booth conveyed a unified message of partners working together to provide services to the research community. The centre of this message was a Snakes and Ladders game which was gifted to delegates and took players on a researcher's journey through the pitfalls (snakes) and aiding services (ladders) that would be encountered during a typical data lifecycle.



To download a copy of the game, [click here](#).

To encourage further collaboration and industry engagement, RDS provided funding for two staff from each Node to attend the conference and to run sessions on their area of expertise. Some of these presentations have been published and available [here](#).

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## RDS sponsors the 2016 Winter School

RDS proudly sponsored the 13th annual Winter School earlier this month. The Winter School represents a premier bioinformatics training event in Australia. Numbers were high with 246 participants, and some 35 presentations were given from a range of international and national leaders in the field of bioinformatics.

Slides and selected videos of presentations will be available soon at <http://bioinformatics.org.au/ws16/>

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## RDS sponsors GovHack

GovHack is a two-day developer event held simultaneously around Australia to create working prototypes and mashups with government data, to find new ways to solve the challenges facing government.

By sponsoring GovHack, the RDS project has aligned itself with a respected community event which has established strong ties with Australian developer communities, and federal, state, territory, and local governments.

### [More Info](#)

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For further information regarding newsletter content, please contact author/moderator [Asher Vennell](#)

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## About RDS

RDS is a federally funded project, for which UQ is the lead agent.

The Research Data Services (RDS) Project is an initiative of the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS).

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