Welcome to the RDS newsletter,

As you may know, the National Research Infrastructure Roadmap was delivered to the Minister's office in May this year and is currently under consideration. In the meantime, RDS, ANDS, and Nectar have had an aligned business plan accepted by the Department of Education and Training. The business plan across all three projects provides the foundation and initial steps in the process of integration and coordination.

Bringing together three quite different organisations with diverse histories, drivers and modes of engagement has been both challenging and highly rewarding. We are extremely grateful to the engagement and patience of the NCRIS and community partners working with us in this process. We've defined and embarked on a program of activities which will deliver better, simpler, more accessible, and more effective collaborative research infrastructure to researchers through an aligned ANDS/Nectar/RDS, our NCRIS partners, and institutional partners.

Our RDS 2016/17 projects are completing on schedule and have delivered fantastic outcomes to their communities as well as positioning the services as enduring capabilities through deep research community engagement. Many of these projects have provided valuable precursor outputs able to be leveraged and built into the aligned 2017/18 RDS/ANDS/Nectar programs.

The Research Activity Identifier (http://www.RAiD.org.au), a collaborative output led by RDS in partnership with AAF, AARNet, ANDS, and Nectar under the Data Lifecycle Framework (https://www.dlc.edu.au), is experiencing a high level of interest and uptake with several production services ranging from data management planning tools to resource providers in advanced stages of implementation. Our domestic institutions as well as our friends over the ditch will shortly be leveraging the value of linking people, resources, and outputs through the RAiD activity identifier.

Lessons learnt from all of our historical processes and activities are being fed in to the NRDC (National Research Data Cloud) definition activity for the Department of Education and Training. The project is being led by Robyn Owens, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor[AV1] (Research) of the University of Western Australia and ably assisted by Rob Cook. We are all looking forward to seeing the proposal due around the end of November which will lay out a road map and options for the future of our projects.

I'd like to thank my colleagues Ross Wilkinson (Director of ANDS) and Glenn Moloney (Director of Nectar) for their willingness, energy, engagement, and efforts in bringing all of our projects into this coherent and coordinated direction. I'm very excited to see what opportunities the NRDC proposal presents.

In This Issue

Ian Duncan

One step closer to connecting Australia's researchers globally

The Australian Access Federation (AAF) has recently completed a project funded by RDS (Research Data Services) that paves the way for Australian researchers to collaborate with international partners. The AAF is now connected to eduGAIN (Education Global Authentication Infrastructure) bringing Australian researchers one step closer to effortless international collaboration.

AAF and RDS have worked closely to deliver the eduGAIN service and have successfully piloted it with a subset of AAF subscribers. This phase of the project delivered the policy framework for the service, along with support materials and resources for a future national roll out.

eduGAIN helps deliver on the government's agenda for the internationalisation of research. It will enable researchers, educators and students to collaborate with their colleagues and securely access applications, tools and datasets in other countries.

Read More

Service Providers Bulletin Board

Nectar Virtual Labs investment has huge economic and research impact:

new report

Nectar Virtual Laboratories (VLs), which provide digital interfaces, tools and data to online research communities, are generating a return on investment of up to 138 times their cost, according to a new report by Victoria University academics.

Estimating the value and impact of Nectar Virtual Laboratories, written by the Victoria Institute of Strategic Economic Studies for the National eResearch Collaboration Tools and Resources project (Nectar), studied three Nectar-supported VLs across different disciplines.

Read More

RAiD releases explainer video

The Research Activity Identifier project has developed a fun animation to help explain the benefits of services by using a character named Elle. Elle has a series of issues, but what will help?
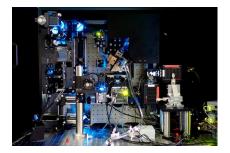
Learn More

QCIF supports big imaging data

QCIF and The University of Queensland's Research Computing Centre are leading the development of dedicated computing and storage infrastructure to handle the big data volumes expected to be generated by a revolutionary new microscope being installed at UQ's Institute for Molecular Bioscience.

Read more

NCI Annual Report

The National Computational Infrastructure's Annual Report for 2016-17 is now available to read here. The Annual Report showcases all the ways that NCI helps enable innovative Australian science, from data-intensive environmental imagery to compute-intensive physical and chemical modelling.

To view visit http://nci.org.au/about-nci/annual-reports

New Nectar database service available on QRIScloud

Nectar's new database service, which provides a simple interface to manage databases, is available on QRIScloud.

The service hides the underlying infrastructural requirements of configuring and running databases. It offers the benefit of API or web-based access for tasks like creating and restoring backups, adding and removing users and more.

Read more

QCIF CEO joins AeRO as co-chair

QCIF CEO Dr Phil Gurney has joined the Australian eResearch Organisations' (AeRO) executive committee as a co-chair, alongside Council of Australian University Directors of Information Technology (CAUDIT) CEO Anne Kealley.

Read more

Take the FAIR data survey (and win book tokens!)

ANDS, Nectar and RDS have launched a short survey on the FAIR data principles - and we need **YOU** to help make it successful! We want to find out what people know about it, and how we can support the research data community to make their data more FAIR.

Please take five minutes to fill out the survey, and also pass it on to colleagues. Everybody who fills in the survey with a valid email address before 17 November 2017 will be in the draw for one of five $50 book tokens.

Take the survey at ands.org.au/FAIR.

Upcoming Events

IMPACT PLANNING & MONITORING WORKSHOPS

The CSIRO Performance, Planning and Evaluation team, and Lateral Economics, are each conducting 1 day impact planning & monitoring workshops .The intent of the one day workshops are to introduce participants to a deep understanding of the key theoretical concepts of the impact planning and monitoring process for research infrastructures. These were organised by the NCRIS community, but are open to all

The CSIRO impact workshops will take place on 9 November in Canberra and 13 November in Sydney, cost of $555 per person. Email Tom.Keenan@csiro.au to register. **Bookings close 3 Nov.**

The Lateral Economics impact workshop will take place on 29 November in Melbourne, cost of $1641 per person. Registration can be made online. **Bookings close 8 Nov.**

Health and medical data webinar

A webinar has been arranged to discuss medical and health data. The topic is Data linkage and the Australian Health Thesaurus (**Wed 8 Nov 1-1.30pm AEDT**). This short webinar aims to support better management and publication of health and medical data. It is open to everybody and free of charge (but please register to attend).

Register here

Brisbane workshop
More bang for your (training) buck:
Powering up your 2018 (data and skills) training

QUT Gardens Point Campus, Tuesday, 5 December 2017 from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm (AEST)

2018? Yes - it's time to start thinking about how to get the greatest training impact and reach. This workshop will fire lots of ideas for data and research skills training and support for Nectar Virtual Labs or NCRIS facilities, and will cover learning principles and skills ideas and materials.

Register here

RDS Project Updates

RDS Omics project update

After more than 2 years of work, the RDS Omics project has successfully completed over 90 milestones and will be closing the project at the start of November 2017.

Teams from VicNode, QCIF, Intersect, and Melbourne Bioinformatics have been working together since August 2015 on pre-project work before the official RDS Omics project initiation in February 2016.

The project has developed an end-to-end bioinformatics-on-the-cloud platform, combining independent components in a flexible and loosely coupled framework.
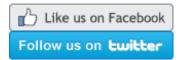
Read More

A United eResearch

The ANDS, Nectar and RDS FAIRground proved popular with a number of attendees feeling the urge to shoot a bunch of innocent data bugs... Sugar rushes were aplenty with delegates receiving a lollypop in exchange for filling out a FAIR Data survey. The projects were able to have many valuable conversations and promote the FAIR data principles.

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).

NCRIS
National Research
Infrastructure for Australia
An Australian Government Initiative