RDS
Research Data Services

Welcome to the February edition of the RDS Newsletter.

We've had some excellent discussions over the past month, specifically those culminating in the recent joint RDS Node Operating Committee (NOC) and NeCTAR PSC meeting. The meeting was hosted by The University of Queensland (UQ) and attended by Node Operators, RDS Board and NeCTAR Project Directorate. Node Operator leads provided a series of encouraging updates regarding the progress in their respective domains and we were fortunate to welcome guest speaker Dr Rhys Francis. Dr Francis provided valuable government feedback regarding the future of NCRIS funding and spoke about development of the eResearch Framework report, which aims both to highlight the importance of eResearch in the sector, as well as provide direction and input into the government's approach to ongoing eResearch support.

The project continues to make significant headway with the approval of the Food and Health Flagship project plan and persistent momentum of the A1 projects, which are now on the home straight. We can look forward to demonstrating the success and significant value generated through the projects in the near future.

The RDS project continues to be in a transitional phase, with the project moving towards facilitating the layering and application of services on top of RDSI investments. With the support of project stakeholders and partners, we hope to provide significant value to both the operators of our nationally distributed family of infrastructure as well as research-based user groups.

Thank you all for your warm welcome into the RDS Director position,

Ian Duncan
Director | Research Data Services

What's new with the Node Operators

NCI - Making green energy greener

Australian researchers are using NCI's supercomputer Raijin to develop a way of improving the humidity tolerance of a new type of solar cell technology.

The new solar cells, based on a compound with perovskite structures, are cheaper to make than traditional silicon cells but their use in real world devices is limited by the fact that they suffer from a drop in performance in humid conditions.

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QCIF - Sharing health-y data workshop

The Australian National Data Service (ANDS), Queensland Facility for Advanced Bioinformatics(QFAB) and Health Informatics Society of Australia (HISA) are co-hosting this free workshop on sharing sensitive health data.

Attendees will hear from researchers, data managers, local and legal experts about their experiences and advice for publishing and sharing health data.

Read more

TPAC makes research easier with desktop in the cloud

Researchers are often time-poor, and TPAC understands how important it is to offer services to researchers that are familiar, have been pre-configured with research tools and are quick to deploy. With this in mind TPAC have created a number of cloud based Virtual Machines (VM's) that run within the National Research Cloud (NeCTAR).

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eRSA - New Year, New Look

To welcome in the New Year, we've decided to evolve our brand and logo. We've also simplified our name from eResearch SA to eRSA.

In conjunction with our new look, we're also rolling out a series of new training workshops.

We are hosting our first workshop, running a Virtual Machine in the cloud on 25 February 2016. For more information on the workshop and how to register, click here.

If you know any colleagues who may benefit, please forward the link onto them also.

We look forward to continuing to support research throughout 2016!

RDS Project Updates

NCRIS 2015 funds are flowing

The RDS Project is pleased to announce that $2.6m has been allocated to the deepening and broadening of existing research domains under the NCRIS 2015 funding agreements with an additional $1.6m of funding being made available through the Food and Health Flagship project.

With the majority of Node Operators having signed the 2015 Deeds of Variation, additional research domain funds are being made available to eResearch nodes and activities are getting underway.

For full allocation details of NCRIS 2015 funds, see Annual Business Plan - NCRIS 2015

For further information regarding newsletter content, please contact author/moderator Asher Vennell