

Licensing Australia's Research Outputs under a single framework, AusGOAL

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EXTRACT

AusGOAL (Australian Governments Open Access and Licensing Framework) provides support and guidance to government and related sectors to facilitate open access to publicly funded information. AusGOAL makes it possible to use and re-use information or data in a way that drives innovation and entrepreneurial activities, and provide economic and social benefits to the community.

Opening Australia's Publicly Funded Research and Innovation

Australia has a vibrant research and innovation sector which supports and enhances virtually every aspect of our life experiences. Although all aspects of research are important, this part of the AusGOAL website is focusses on the licensing of research outputs. A significant fraction of the research output produced in Australia is publicly funded, either directly via the major funding bodies, or, indirectly via institutional funding. Like the Australian Governments, the major research funding bodies and research organisations are moving towards requiring that information and data from their projects be published and made available for re-use.

Licensing research data using AusGOAL

One of the essential ingredients for making data re-usable is the provision of clarity of permissions, terms, and conditions. Prospective re-users need to know what they can and cannot do with the data. A lack of clarity about permission to re-use data can have the same result as forbidding data re-use, because uncertainty can be enough to discourage the potential re-user.

While there are many different ways of licensing data, there is a strong advantage in using a consistent approach. The technology now exists to allow individual datasets to be combined with others in novel ways to help solve ever more complex problems. The use of a single licensing framework, such as AusGOAL, across the research community and public sector enhances the potential for data sets to be combined for analysis, relieving researchers of the burden of keeping track of different conditions and permissions.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR(S)

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Baden holds degrees in law and commerce, in addition to tertiary qualifications in management. Baden is a Barrister of the Supreme Court of Queensland and of the High Court of Australia. From 2000 – 2008 Baden was engaged with the Australian Taxation Office, predominately as Principal Litigator and Litigation Manager within the ATO Legal Services Branch. In those roles Baden had carriage of a broad variety of complex litigation in general and commercial law, insolvency and bankruptcy law, workplace law, family law, and administrative law.

From 2007 - 2008 Baden was Principal Research Fellow with the Faculty of Law at the Queensland University of Technology. During that period Baden was Project Manager of CRC for Spatial Information Project 3.05 which provided assistance to underpin the legal and policy framework development of Queensland Government Information Licensing Framework (GILF). Baden is currently National Programme Director of the Australian Governments Open Access and Licensing Framework (AusGOAL - GILF's successor). He has responsibility for the development and implementation of AusGOAL in each of the jurisdictions and related sectors. He advises all levels of government, and their agencies, and research sector on the implementation of AusGOAL and related copyright, contractual and administrative law (eg. FOI and Privacy) issues.