Build it and they will come? Strategies to populate a self-serve data repository

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In April 2012, the CSIRO Information Management & Technology eResearch Program launched the Research Data Service (RDS) across CSIRO. The RDS consists of two complementary components; a ‘self-serve’ web based portal where researchers can deposit data to enable sharing and reuse, and a support team coordinated by Library Services who are available to work with researchers to provide advice and support for managing research data. CSIRO has established the RDS to facilitate the capture, description, access and reuse of CSIRO’s research data assets, and is developing the Service has been developed progressively through partnerships with research groups and with support from the Australian National Data Service (ANDS).

The Data Access Portal (DAP) provides the user interface to an underpinning architecture that provides a secure repository for long term storage of data, supports a cross-domain metadata framework and offers a number of options for uploading, discovering and downloading data. The DAP is part of the Australian Research Data Commons, with selected records harvested to Research Data Australia (RDA).

The DAP is designed to support ‘self-serve’ deposit and access to data with workflows similar to those used by the CSIRO publications approval system and repository. The self serve deposit design decision recognized the long term resource implications of mediated deposit, and that the data creator or custodian knows the re-use circumstances of the data, including format, structures, descriptions, and IP issues.

CSIRO developed the DAP and RDS Support Service concurrently to ensure the Service encompassed a holistic approach incorporating technology, people and process. The DAP development team employs an agile methodology, which allows ongoing feedback from research partners to influence the development roadmap.

The soft launch of the RDS in April this year commenced with an article in CSIRO’s weekly internal newsletter announcing the extension of the service beyond an initial pilot group to the entire organization. This presentation will cover our approach to encouraging uptake of the RDS across CSIRO since implementation.

We will look at the strategies employed to overcome the widely recognized challenges [1] for uptake of any institutional repository. These strategies include enhancements to DAP functionality, an audit of existing data collections, the development of a communication plan, and building a more broadly-based support model for the Service.

We will also discuss the lessons learnt and anticipated future directions for the RDS.
REFERENCES


ABOUT THE AUTHORS

**Gerry Ryder** has a broad range of experience across a number of information management related fields. In her current role, Gerry is leading a small team of information specialists who, as part of a larger multi-disciplinary team, are delivering the CSIRO Research Data Service.

**Sue Cook** has been an Information Specialist at CSIRO for five years and is currently part of the Research Data Service Support team. She also has interests in emerging technologies and using online social networks for professional development.

**Janet Applegate** is an Information Specialist at CSIRO. She has been part of the Research Data Service Support team since project inception.