ANDS Seeding the Commons Project

Frequently Asked Questions

What does the Australian National Data Service (ANDS) aim to do?

- Partner with researchers and research organisations to help them meet their data management ambitions
- Transform the disparate collections of shareable research data around Australia into a Commons of discoverable research resources
- Support more researchers reusing more data more often

What is Research Data Australia (RDA) or Australian Research Data Commons (ARDC)?

- Both of these names are used to describe the same database.
- It is being built by ANDS as a digital realisation of a traditional commons to enable greater data sharing and reuse
- It is a combination of the set of shareable Australian research collections, the descriptions of those collections including the information required to support their reuse, the relationships between the various elements involved and the infrastructure needed to enable, populate and support the Commons
- It is accessible through Research Data Australia which is designed to promote the visibility of research data collections through internet search engines, including Google and Yahoo

What is the UOW ANDS Seeding the Commons Project?

- The ANDS funded project will trawl UOW research projects to locate researchers who believe that their data may benefit the discipline in which they operate or be of benefit across disciplines. Researchers will be assisted to fully describe the dataset(s) with meaningful terms and descriptors that will be loaded to the Australian Research Data Commons to assist discoverability by like minded researchers.

What are the objectives of the UOW Seeding the Commons Project?

- To identify existing research data collections at the University of Wollongong (UOW)
- To describe these research data collections and store the metadata so that it can be harvested by the ARDC
- To provide storage for these UOW research data collections
- To develop better data management practices across UOW
How do I know if my research data is important?

- All research data is important.

What are the benefits to researchers?

- Assistance to fully describe your dataset(s) with meaningful terms and descriptors
- Opportunity to be an early adopter and load your metadata to the Australian Research Data Commons
- International discovery of metadata describing your research data through Research Data Australia and internet sites, while you retain the rights of access to your data
- Increase research integrity
- Enables you to make new discoveries from historical data
- Avoids duplication of your research effort
- Opportunity to protect and preserve your research data
- Preservation of your research data through access to UOW storage
- Ensures your compliance with the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research

What are the benefits to the research community?

- Discovery and possible reuse of research data collections
- Verification of research results
- Opportunity to draw data from different fields as many of the world's biggest problems are multi-disciplinary
- Preservation of data as once data is lost or destroyed it is gone forever. However, if kept, old data can contribute to new research, enabling fresh discoveries and supplementing other information
- Protection of temporal data
- Minimises duplication of effort
- Evidence on return on investment from grants
- Ensures compliance with the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research, to which all Australian universities are signatories, and which states that 'Research data should be made available for use by other researchers unless this is prevented by ethical, privacy or confidentiality matters.' (Section 2.5.2.)

What are the benefits to UOW?

- Identification of important historical datasets that may otherwise be lost or inadvertently destroyed
- Opportunity for researchers to reuse datasets if appropriate
- Diminished exposure to risk by storage of supporting evidence for any research assertions made
• Evidence of return on investment from grants
• Exposure and promotion of UOW research through the international discoverability of the Australian Research Data Commons
• A more streamlined approach to research project data management that ensures a sound return on research investment

How do I request access to data storage for my research data?

• You can request data storage by registering your research project. Please see the Resources section on the eResearch website, http://www.uow.edu.au/research/eresearch/datamanagement/resources.

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